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Mrs. Fawcett's Message to the N.U.W.S.S.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

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CONTENTS

Notes and Comments

In Parliament

Correspondence

"Wind and Tide." By E. Rentoul Esler

Reviews

Mrs. Fawcett to the Members of the N.U.W.S.S.

What War Means. Great Women's Meeting at Kingsway Hall.

How Some of Us Live. Home Life in the Potteries. By Our Commissioner.

Active Service League.

Election Fighting Fund.

British Red Cross Society.

News from the Societies and Federations

"Our words and works, our thoughts and songs turn thither,
Toward one great end, as waves that press and roll.
Though waves be spent, and ebb like hopes that wither,
These shall subside not ere they find the goal."

ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 500).

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Notes and Comments.

The War.

This war is going to be a test of the stuff in us all. The experience in organising, the self-reliance and courage and resource developed in our work for the enfrachisement of women are going to stand us in good stead in the hardships and griefs now upon us. We have no fear that members of the National Union will prove unequal to the great test of their endurance and helpfulness. There will be work for all, and sacrifice for all. Every bit of good work in resisting panic, refusing to hoard supplies or to outbid the poor, organising relief in the way found most effective, will be work of good citizens who feel themselves worthy of a voice in the decisions which have so hideously altered their lives.

Defenders of the Country.

It is the vocation, not only of the members of the National Union, but of all women, to be foremost in defence of their country—not by arms, but by moral force. It is theirs to help to guide their countrymen along the paths of wisdom; it is theirs in every home and in thousands of places of business, to set an example of steadfastness of unselfishness, of cheerfulness, and good sense. It is theirs also to be forward in seeing that proper provision is made for those called to naval or military service, to their dependents, and to all upon whom misery is brought by trade dislocations, to see, too, that these things are done not by " charity " alone, but by the statesman-like management of authorities, imperial and local. It is for women, too, as leisure from the cares of the family permit, to render themselves in every way efficient for such other duties as the time demands, and, not least, it is theirs to show innumerable new adaptabilities; for they will be called upon, it can hardly be doubted, to take a more leading part than in past times, in the conduct of the everyday business of the nation.

Women's Meeting.

The responsibility laid upon the National Union Executive at this national and international crisis is a heavy one, because an entirely new and unforeseen situation has had to be met, with only the knowledge and sympathy that already exist between the Societies and their Executive to guide the latter. At two days' notice a decision had to be arrived at whether or no to help in organising a public platform in London upon which women of various Societies could voice the women's claim to be heard on questions of peace and war, and upon which the National Union could also voice what was felt to be an overwhelming majority of Suffragist opinion. To stand out at this crisis seemed cowardly and impossible. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance desired such a meeting, and as the Auxiliary in Great Britain, the National Union Executive, acted for the National Union. It was a considerable feat of organisation to fill the Kingsway Hall as it was on Tuesday night with nearly its full complement of two thousand women; there were only two days in which to do this, and one of these was Bank Holiday. It was triumphantly done, and the list of speakers wonderfully representative. Of course, they did not all represent the National Union: only Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Swanwick did this, and a carefully-worded sentence in the speech of the latter made it clear that the Union as a Union had taken no line upon this particular war and the share of Great Britain in it, but that Suffragists by their general line of speech and thought were essentially against the arbitrament of force in the place of reason and right.

Ideals.

Mrs. Webb's articles on the Woman's Movement in *The New Statesman* have aroused considerable interest—they are able and from the pen of an acknowledged authority, and teach us much. Yet they are not wholly convincing. Idealists put out shoots which need the pruning-knife; yet there is such a thing as over-pruning, and this may destroy the plant it is meant to strengthen. Mrs. Webb has a sharp knife, and she uses it with such skill that the temptation to use it very freely must be almost irresistible. Her arguments are at times of the "human nature *is* human nature" type which has always been used to damp down the ardour of reformers. Yet we cannot forget those two frogs who inadvertently fell into the bucket of new milk. Our readers will remember how one said, " This is milk, I shall be drowned," and incontinently sank; while the other—and, after all, he was the wiser of the two—was heard to mutter, " This is milk, which may drown me, but I will paddle away, discouraging though my position is." And presently that frog found itself sitting on a pat of butter of its own making, and it became a celebrated little creature, though possibly Mrs. Webb would have doubted its sanity had she been the witness of its ungainly endeavours.

God Save the Poor.

" The Man in the Street " who writes pithily day by day in *The Daily Sketch* has commented on the rise in the price of food, while the rumours of war were yet vague. He said, " Partly this is due to mere animal panic among otherwise sober business men, very greatly it is due to the unpatriotic cunning of certain traders and middlemen, and to some extent it is due to unreasoning panic among consumers." This comment raises the eternal question, Who gains or who loses by war? Certain manufacturers of armaments gain—certain unscrupulous traders in the necessities of life, certain speculative financiers, and, happily, all who do or bear bravely at the call of duty. These gain. Who then loses? The supreme sacrifice is made by the poor. Not theirs the glamour or the glory, hardly theirs the choice or the reward, but theirs the loss of almost all—the deaths, or the disablement by wounds and sickness of the bread-winner, the starvation of the children, the woman called to be father and mother too. Unemployment, low wages, high prices, with the safeguards of democratic institutions in jeopardy. Yet " The People's Anthem " is not only a prayer, it breathes a confidence in what the poor can do and be, which is felt always most strongly by those whose friends they are:—

Lord, from Thy blessed throne,
Sorrow look down upon,
God save the poor!
Teach them true liberty,
Make them from tyrants free,
Let their homes happy be—
God save the poor!

. . . . . .

Give them staunch honesty,
Let their pride manly be—
God save the poor!
Help them to hold the right,
Give them both truth and might,
Lord of all life and right—
God save the poor!

More and more the manual workers are learning that self-government should be no empty phrase, that their destiny, whether as members of one nation or of the whole human race, is in their own hands, and more and more must they take their share in responsibility for the issues of peace and war, in all that goes to decide not only whether one nation shall live honourably and safely, but whether an honourable and reasonably secure life is possible for every individual in each nation. And what is true of the poor is true of women. Give them both truth and might, Lord of all life and right—God save the poor!

Against Drudgery.

The Fabian women deserve heartiest congratulations for their statesman-like action in starting a crusade against unprofitable drudgery, and starting it on scientific lines by an enquiry into the facts. " Can domestic drudgery be abolished or even simplified? " is the question, and on the possibilities of the thing Mrs. Schloesser makes the following wise comments:

It will certainly leave many women free, if they choose, to follow some calling, and so widen their interest in life. I think a woman should always be able to organise her homework, so that she has the time to do other work in the world.

But the question has another aspect besides that of economic independence. Will the standardisation of domestic duties produce the ideal home?

" Ideals are so different," said Mrs. Schloesser. " For example, gas fires, which might reasonably come under the head of standardisation, would not be so desirable in my opinion as coal fires are. The latter give much more work, of course, and that's the difficulty.

" There is one point of reorganisation that is well worth thinking about, and that is the non-resident servant. It seems to me this would be much nicer for the servant (who would have more time to herself, if she were only employed for so many hours a day), and also for those who were receiving her services."

Asked what part communal cooking would play in the domestic revolution, Mrs. Schloesser thought it would spread quickly enough if its economic advantages were fully realised. It meant that a meal for ten could be cooked just as quickly and proportionately cheaper than a meal for two.

The Fabians do well to attack the sulky demon of drudgery. A merry heart, a trained and sympathetic imagination, plenty of courage, and initiative are things everyone ought to have, and excess of drudgery kills them all. So death to it!

In Parliament.

[We make no attempt to give a full account of the week's proceedings in Parliament. Our aim is merely to show what Parliament is doing with regard to questions which we have special reason to think would be more satisfactorily dealt with if women had the vote.]

Wednesday, July 29th.

MILK AND DAIRIES BILL.

Read a third time and passed, after two days' debate.

MATERNITY BENEFIT.

SIR RICHARD COOPER (Walsall, U.) asked the Hon. Member for St. George's-in-the-East (1) whether the Commissioners have approved the maternity benefit claim form, adopted by certain Approved Societies, on which the doctor or midwife who attended the case is required to certify the accuracy of the information given by the person claiming the benefit, and the *bonâ fides* of the claim; whether, in view of the fact that medical practitioners and midwives are not as a rule in a position to give this certificate, several insured persons have been unable to obtain the benefit they claim, and if it is proposed to prepare and cause to be adopted by all Approved Societies a common form of maternity benefit claim to which objection cannot be taken; and (2) whether he is aware that the National Amalgamated Approved Society has refused to pay the maternity benefit claim of Frederick W. Robinson, of 74, Linden Crescent, Folkestone, in respect of a confinement which took place on December 8th, 1913, on the ground that the doctor in attendance has refused to give a certificate of the *bonâ fides* of the claim and the accuracy of the information given by the claimant, as these are matters beyond his knowledge, and instead has given a certificate to the effect that he attended the confinement, which the Society has refused to accept; whether he can take any steps to ascertain if the claimant is entitled to the benefit, and if so, if he will direct that it be paid.

MR. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lord of the Treasury):—

"A model form for maternity claim has been issued, but *the Commissioners have no power to require its adoption.*

In the case referred to the claim has now been paid, and the form in question is under revision.

SIR R. COOPER (Walsall, U.):—

"Is it not the fact that doctors and midwives are required to vouchsafe information of which they cannot possibly have any knowledge?"

MR. BENN (Plymouth, U.):—

"In the case of the form to which the Hon. Baronet refers that is so, but that form is being revised."

Thursday, July 30th.

BRITISH NATIONALITY AND STATUS OF ALIENS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

Amendments relating to women lost, with the exception of Mr. Harcourt's very small concession: "Provided that where a man ceases during continuance of his marriage to be a British subject, it shall be lawful for his wife to make a declaration that she desires to retain British nationality, and therefore she shall be deemed to be a British subject."

SUFFRAGIST POSTERS.

MR. A. HENDERSON (Labour—Barnard Castle) asked the Home Secretary whether the fact that a contract entered into by the London General Omnibus Company to display a poster appealing to the public to support law-abiding suffragists was not being executed owing to the intervention on the part of the authorities of Scotland Yard; and if he could state the reason for the intervention.

MR. MCKENNA (Home Secretary): By an Order made under the Metropolitan Carriage Act, 1869, the display of advertisements in public carriages is subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Police. It has long been the practice of the Commissioner to forbid, for public reasons, the display of advertisements of a political character—(cheers)—and as the advertisement proposed to be issued by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies came within this category, it did not receive the approval of the Commissioner. I may add that the Commissioner's notice has only recently been called to the fact that an advertisement issued by the Women's Social and Political Union is being displayed in omnibuses, and he is taking action in the matter. (Cheers)

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A deputation in support of the State Registration Bill waited on Mr. McKenna on July 30th. A large number of professional and other organisations were represented, and among the speakers were Dr. Chapple, M.P. (who acted as introducer), Dr. Goodall (for the British Medical Association), Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (for the nursing profession), and Lady Strachey (for the general public). Among the points made were the following:—

DR. GOODALL:—

The British Medical Association first appeared in 1895, and since that time it has frequently re-affirmed its decision, and did so again only a week ago. . . There is no opposition through any organised body of medical practitioners which can profess to speak for it, while the British Medical Association represents all grades. . . . . With the introduction of anaesthesia, aseptic surgery, X-ray treatment, and other developments of medical science, there is a demand for a great increase in the skill of nurses throughout the whole country.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK:—

There are few Government departments which do not directly or indirectly utilise trained nurses. The Admiralty, through the Royal Naval Nursing Service, the War Office, through the Military Nursing Service, the Army Nursing Service Reserve, the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and the Military Families Hospitals, the Local Government Board in Poor Law Infirmaries and infectious hospitals, the Home Office in prisons, the India Office through the Military Nursing Service for India, the Foreign Office in British protectorates, the Colonial Office in Crown Colonies. Here, again, it is of the utmost importance that nurses whose services are of a standardised quality of efficiency should be readily available.

Yet no such standard has been defined or enforced. Recently, we have had an example of the effect of this indefiniteness. When the National Insurance Act was passed it provided that registered medical practitioners and certified midwives should attend upon the insured, the qualifications of the trained nurses who apply medical treatment were left undefined, and unless safeguards are introduced there appears to be a danger that the Nursing Benefit will not be placed in the hands of those who are experts, in the sense in which that word is interpreted, not in this country alone, but throughout the civilised world wherever nurses are efficiently organised. Had a Nurses Registration Act been in force when the Insurance Bill was passed, it is certain that the standard of nursing secured to the insured sick would have been that supplied by the Registered Nurse—to their incalculable benefit.

In regard to the alternative proposal of an Official Directory:

It was a most dangerous suggestion, because it is evident that the value of any Professional Register is dependent not on the fact of registration, but on the supervision of the training of pupils, the enforcement of educational standards by an expert Board—of which the majority should consist of members of the profession—and the maintenance of discipline in the ranks of those registered, by the same authority. To place the control of the highly trained nurses throughout the Kingdom, with the power to remove their names from the Directory, in the hands of one official (as was proposed in the scheme suggested) would be to place professional women in a most defenceless and dangerous position, and would be of no advantage to the public, who would not be in a position to discriminate between the relative value of the training and experience entered.

This scheme of the Central Hospital Council for London was incorporated in a Bill without consulting those for whom it was proposed to to legislate, and introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., in 1908, but owing to the determined opposition of the nurses on its Second Reading its rejection was moved by the Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., and, on a division, the Bill was rejected.

LADY STRACHEY:—

It is not necessary to urge the question of State Registration of Nurses upon the public because they have got beyond that stage and are convinced of its necessity, but on behalf of the public, and especially of those who are poor and helpless, I venture to urge this reform, and to hope that the Government will bring to a practical conclusion the movement for State Registration of Nurses by giving facilities for the Second Reading of the Nurses Registration Bill in the House of Commons.

NOTABLE WOMEN OF ENGLAND.

A Lesson in the Windows of Liverpool Cathedral.

There have lately been presented to Liverpool Cathedral a set of windows which deserve special notice. They picture Notable Women of England. The first window contains "Juliana of Norwich, and all who have sought the inner life; Susanna Wesley, and all devoted mothers; Elizabeth Fry, and all pitiful women, Josephine Butler, and all brave champions of purity." The second window gives "Charlotte, Countess of Derby, and all loyal-hearted women; Queen Victoria, and all noble queens; Angela Burdett-Coutts, and all almoners of the King of Heaven; Catherine Gladstone, and all loyal-hearted wives." The third window represents "Christina Rossetti, and all sweet singers; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and all who have seen the infinite in things; Lady Margaret Beaufort, and all patronesses of sacred learning; Anne Clough, and all true teachers." There is also a long window showing "Margaret Godolphin, and all who have kept themselves unspotted in a corrupt world; Mother Cecile, and all women loving and large-hearted in counsel; Louisa Stewart, and all the noble army of martyrs; Dr. Alice Marval, and all who have laid down their lives for their sisters; Anna Hinderer, and all missionary pioneers; Grace Darling, and all courageous maidens; Kitty Wilkinson, and all humble workers for God; Agnes Jones, and all devoted nurses; Mary Rogers, and all faithful servants."

Correspondence.

ACCURATE STATISTICS.

Madam,—Concerning the leaflet I wrote you about last week, all I can say is that it was printed in green ink, and that as soon as I had read it I handed it to a bystander remarking on its inaccuracy. I certainly thought your Society had published it, but since that is not so I will publicly explain to my audience in Hyde Park on Sunday.

H. B. Samuels.

CORRESPONDENCE IN *THE YORKSHIRE OBSERVER.*

Madam,—I must ask your permission to make some comments on your letter in the last issue of The Common Cause referring to my letter in *The Yorkshire Observer*. The letter which you refer to was a private letter written by me to the editor, and not for publication. I have already received the regrets of the editor for printing it. I am not press secretary to the N.L.O.W.S., and merely described myself as a press secretary, because I am one of several persons who answer Suffrage letters in the press. I repeat, the letter was a private letter to the editor, remonstrating with him for the note he thought good to append to my previous letter in *The Yorkshire Observer*, in which I had not hinted at unknown abominations, but merely referred to the filthy literature published by Suffrage societies and circulated amongst young girls. Many other people have published indignant remonstrances concerning the same thing. In addition, I quoted an extract from the leading article of *The Standard* of June 9th. *The Standard* is a paper of the highest standing, and the editor has first hand knowledge of what he referred to. Under these circumstances the note of the editor of *The Yorkshire Observer* was most unfair, as well as misleading.

I have not noticed that the N.U.W.S.S. has ever protested against the abominable literature which I referred to, therefore, I must conclude that all Suffrage societies approve of it equally.

Audrey Mary Cameron.

IRELAND.

Madam,—As many of your readers will doubtless have their plans upset by not being able to go abroad at present, may I, through your columns, draw attention to the great attraction Ireland offers to those seeking change and rest. The press has greatly exaggerated recent evidences of unrest in this country—there is no fear of any unpleasantness here now, and we rejoice to feel that our beautiful island may be a safe and happy haven now for holiday makers. I myself will gladly advise further anyone seeking information. If ordinary Suffrage work is stopped for us women there still remains to us the practical work of lessening the difficulties of this grave crisis.

E. Browning.

2, Upper Ely Place, Dublin.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

OHIO.

An American Journal quotes a telegram from the President of the Woman Suffrage Association as follows :—

"Ohio has its one thousand and four hundred names, the largest initiative petition ever secured in the world."

This means that the question of equal Suffrage will be submitted to the voters of Ohio in November. Ohio thus becomes the seventh campaign State.

BELGIUM.

The Daily Herald's Brussels Correspondent gives the following account of the present situation in regard to Woman Suffrage in Belgium :—

"Just as in 1891, the Government turned to its own advantage the movement in favour of the extension of the suffrage, by the ingenious invention of proportional representation and plural voting, so it is now seeking a formula to prevent it being routed at the elections in 1916.

"It is thought the end will probably be attained by the introduction of votes for women in the forthcoming universal suffrage law. The scheme is an audacious one, for, in order to make it succeed, the Catholics must count upon the help of the Socialists who favour this complete reform, but the government appears determined to maintain the clerical party in office at all costs.

"Already one of the most influential members of the Radical party has set out to prepare the ground for the next elections, and another deputy, Baron Béthune, has just openly declared himself in favour of Women's Suffrage.

"A latent but active campaign to obtain votes for women by this means is being prepared in Belgium, and although it is not yet openly discussed, it is probable that the question will soon be debated in all sections of the press."

The attitude of the various parties is made clear by a reference to Woman Suffrage in practice :—

"In Belgium there are three political parties, the Catholics, the Socialists, and the Liberals.

"The Socialists have for a long time had Women Suffrage on their programme; the Catholics are beginning to join forces with the movement; as for the Liberals they are more obstinate, because, in their opinion, Woman Suffrage is equivalent to clerical suffrage.

"It is true that many Socialists also take this view. . . . The Catholics, on the other hand, are beginning to declare themselves definitely in favour of Woman Suffrage."

The Woman of To-morrow.

(Being a translation of part of an article of Henry Spont, appearing in *Le Petit Journal*, of June 3rd, 1914.)

One has not forgotten—one must not forget—the splendid and heroic courage shown lately by Mme. Poullain, the wife of the signalman who was assassinated at St. Denis. We know that, crushing her own pain, and even while her husband lay dying, she worked the signals herself in order that the trains might run in safety, and so averted a disaster. Still more recently the wives of two aviators (Mmes. de Castella and Pelletier) threw themselves from a great height in order to test a parachute.

Such actions, done quite simply, have provoked a legitimate admiration, but one has not sufficiently asked oneself what has made them possible, for with all the will in the world Mme. Poullain, if she had not been initiated into her husband's work, could not in the moment of peril have taken his place and done his work. Equally, why did the other two undertake so difficult a task? Because they had confidence. And why had they confidence? Because they had watched their husbands' patient experiments, and had caught their enthusiasm. From this one sees the necessity of close collaboration between the husband and wife.

. . . . . .

This collaboration is not encouraged by those of the old school. Rather do they take pleasure in making it impossible.

Look at middle-class society. Boys and girls grow up side by side, equally cared for by their parents, playing the same games, wearing the same kind of clothes. But this equality does not last long, only during the first few years, before any distinct traits of character show themselves. From the moment that symptoms of personality appear, the parents—obeying tradition—find it necessary to separate the children, to train them in a different way, educate them, give them toys—in fact, start a *régime* for each one according to the sex. The boy has a trumpet or a drum, and they are pleased when he makes a noise; the girl has a doll or a work-box, and they are pleased with her silence. Thus the parents raise with their own hands, and without in any way being forced thereto, a barrier between these two innocent children. It is originally in the intimacy of the family circle that the inequality of treatment, the consequences of which endure all through life, begins.

. . . . . .

A wider education, facing realities, would enable the woman, without giving up any of her prerogatives, to uplift and ennoble her *rôle* in life. The "angel in the home" would become the collaborator, the associate. . . .

. . . . . .

Such a dream is not unrealisable. It is, indeed, the object of true feminism.

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WIND AND TIDE.

By E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

SYNOPSIS.

Kate Burnsley is the daughter of a rough Irish farmer, but her mother had been brought up in a refined and cultured home, and had only married Burnsley because her father, the Rev. John Moffatt, was reduced to poverty. On her mother's death, Kate takes her place as mistress of the farm, and performs her duties well, but she is in thoroughly uncongenial surroundings. Everything in the house that stirs her imagination, that seems beautiful, has come to Kate from her mother's people. Kate worships her brother Neil, who is training as a solicitor, and resents the admiration of Dick Nelson, a handsome but rough young man, who is obliged to work on her father's farm, because his people had wasted away all their possessions while he was still a child.

Later on, Nelson inherits some property, and writes to tell Kate that he is still fond of her; but she answers his letter rudely. A second letter arrives from Nelson, telling Kate that he has a mortgage on her father's farm, and asking if this makes any difference to her views. She replies that it does not.

But Kate's father looks at the matter differently. Unable to pay off the mortgage, it does not occur to him that his daughter will "have other views than to save her father and brother," especially as Neil has come home seriously ill. In an interview with Nelson he promises that Kate shall marry him, and rides off in high good humour, leaving the young man ill at ease. "He wanted her so much that he would take her against her will, but only in the hope that one day she would be satisfied."

Persuaded by her father and brother, Kate at last consents to marry Nelson, who, in spite of her reluctance, hopes to win her love in the end. He promises to do everything he can for Neil—who is in an advanced state of consumption—and treats the whole family with every consideration and kindness.

Wrapt up in her brother, Kate still remains indifferent to Nelson, and when on the very day of the wedding Neil dies, she realises with dismay that she has made her sacrifice for nothing. After living with her husband a week she leaves him and takes refuge with Mrs. Morgan, a friend of her mother, who disapproves of her conduct but allows her to stay and treats her with every kindness. When Kate has been with Mrs. Morgan some days her husband comes to fetch her, but Mrs. Morgan persuades him to "be patient and wait." He goes away hurt, and puzzled and angry, leaving Mrs. Morgan full of sympathy for him and very angry with Kate, who has now taken flight again, leaving a short letter of thanks.

Kate goes to her father and tries to persuade him to give up the mortgage, which she handed to him on her wedding day. He refuses, and she leaves him in anger.

CHAPTER XV.

A FEW days after Mrs. Morgan was visited by Nelson, as she had anticipated. He wanted to talk the whole position over with one who knew the facts. It was preparatory to settling down, to accepting the inevitable. The man was changed, his young face seemed to have set and hardened. There were slight hollows under the cheek bones, and the line of the lips had lost its boyish indeterminateness.

"The whole country knows everything now," he said early in their interview, not having any desire to waste time in civil preliminaries.

"About Kate?" she asked.

"Yes; that she has left me. Some of them think it is a good joke," he went on, grimly.

She nodded. She understood how the drama of other people's wrecked happiness lends a zest to conversation in small communities.

"You must take no notice," she said, soberly, after a pause.

He made an impatient movement. "When one's skin is off, every flick hurts."

"It is better not to let that be seen. If they think you are a stone, they will stop flicking you."

"I am growing not to want her back. I don't feel as if I like her any more," he said.

"Mr. Nelson, you should not have come together at the time you did. I am sorry for you, but she is a girl, and I am sorry for her too. It is because I like you and respect you that I tell you you must not begin to pity yourself. You must be fair to her if this thing is not to spoil your life more than it need. Self pity is a disease, you must fight against it."

"Have I been complaining?" he asked, a little sulkily.

"No, indeed no; you are a man," she replied, warmly; then she lapsed into silence.

"I am half disposed to emigrate," he said, after a pause. "It is a help to one's feelings when one can change one's place."

"But if she wanted to come back?" Mrs. Morgan said, dubiously.

"Things would never be the same. You see, it was not like a quarrel, or a misunderstanding that people could explain and set right. It has been a breaking off of what, maybe, should never have been joined. There is no making that right."

"Why were you in such a hurry?" the woman asked, piteously. "I believe, as sure as I am living, that, if you had really loved her, in time she would have flown to you, like a little bird to its mate."

"I wanted her," he said, grimly. "I would have been very kind. I meant to make her life worth while."

Mrs. Morgan sighed. "You are younger than my youngest son," she said, plaintively, "and most women want to be mothering men. Some manage it by telling them the truth, and others think they manage it by feeding them up with lies, letting them think they are the masters of the world, and that everything should give in to them; then they run up against the other kind, and there is trouble. What you did was bad; you took Kate against her will."

He inclined his head unwillingly.

"Married life is very hard for women unless there is love in plenty on both sides," she went on; "that oils the wheels. Kate was not thinking of love or marriage; she wanted to be happy in another way. What was she but a child, after all? Getting her as you did, what could she feel but that she had been trapped? You thought to give her happiness in your way. Men think women were made for them, and that Nature means them to rule, that women belong to them. But every woman knows that there is something that belongs to herself, and that no one has a right to force it from her. If you take from people all their little hoard, it does not matter that you mean to give it back to them bit by bit, and maybe more than they had at the first. Love claims nothing. The thing that is not love claims everything. Mr. Nelson, I am not scolding you; there has been many a case like yours where everything came right in the long run. Many women can accommodate themselves to what is, and make the best of it; but all women are not like that. It seems to me at times as if new ideas were flying into the world like strange birds, and what will be hatched from their eggs only the Lord knows."

Nelson refused to be led into abstract discussion.

"What am I to do now?" he asked.

"There is nothing for it but patience, that I can see."

"I wanted a home. I have not had a home since I was a child. Now I shall probably never have one, as long as I live."

"You have your work," she said, slowly.

He gave a short laugh. "Does one think work a thing in itself? One works for the rewards of work, for happiness and affection, for home and all that belongs to home. How is all that to come my way now?"

"What would you do if you had lost a hand or an eye? Make shift to do without it. There is a lot in life for the young and strong."

"And there is more for the old, they are nearer the end."

"To show Kate that you can get on without her would be something."

"She would never hear of it."

"Oh, yes, she would, and she would think about it if you were making a fine life for yourself in spite of her."

"Would she want to share it?"

"I can't tell you that, Mr. Nelson. She might, or she might not, but, whether or not, I would take that way of showing that I was a man, and a match for any woman. Far better that than flying from the country, as if you had done wrong."

"Do you think I would care what she thinks, if she is to be nothing to me?" he asked, the colour burning hotly in his cheeks. "I am too young to care for opinions. I care for the things I can see and touch. I wanted a wife, and love, and a home. If I may not have them, then I will try how the want of them will hurt me least. You may be quite right, and I quite wrong; I may have been a brute and a fool; all I can say is her people never said so, nobody said so, not even the brother she was so fond of. What could I think but that she would change her mind in time, would come to see, like the rest of the world, that a man has rights when he has won them, that he was meant to be the master, is the master?"

"Maybe so, maybe so," Mrs. Morgan assented, heavily. "But women think deep down in their hearts that they have rights too. Some give these up, but there are others, a few others, that would die first. I am not saying which is best. I don't know whether it is grander to let yourself be taught that another human being is your owner, or to stand up for what you think right, and die that way. Most do one thing, few do the other." Then she laughed unwillingly. "When the great struggle comes, Mr. Nelson, it is single-handed, the rest of us have just to look on, we can do nothing to turn the course of the fight. I have not a notion how this trouble of yours is going to end; all I can say is that I am a friend to both of you, and that if it is in my power at any time to help you to come together, or even to help you separately if you keep apart, each of you may rely on me."

"If you should hear from her, will you let me know?" he asked as he rose to go.

"I am afraid I cannot promise that; she might only come to me on condition that I kept it a secret; but so far as I can help you, and be true to her, you may rely on me."

He went away, strengthened, but uncomforted.

* * * *

Mrs. Morgan had seen her beloved sons fare forth successively from the old home without missing any of them with such pathetic consciousness as oppressed her after the escape from her roof of the girl-woman that was another woman's daughter. Her sons had been men, and they had undergone some measure of preparation for the conditions that awaited them, but this girl-creature, inexperienced, untried, fleeing towards she knew not what! The thought of her seemed to outline with fresh keenness Mrs. Morgan's sub-consciousness that life is queer, and human beings unreliable both in their heroism and their misdoings.

That young fellow, Nelson, adamantine in his age-long assurance of male rights and the justice of asserting them once they had been established, there was he beating his own heart to fragments against what he called a woman's obstinacy; and the woman, ready as she had been for any sacrifice demanded by fraternal love, setting herself like steel against marital love, and deeming it a bitter outrage. Mrs. Morgan oscillated between the two, pitying both, unable to help either.

Time would have set everything in its place she knew, had both

been content to wait, but youth is ever in a hurry, and once things have been done and said they remain.

It seemed to her that Kate's shadow flitted over each of her occupations, came between her and the early sunset, sat with her in the firelight of the winter evenings, and was born again amid the young life of spring.

She had not expected Kate to communicate with her, yet the absolute silence that followed her disconcerting disappearance hurt her. She said to herself frequently, "I wonder what she is doing!" yet when the postman brought a letter at last, suspecting it to be from Kate, she put it into her pocket unopened, and left it there till the evening.

"I suppose she wants something; people remember friends when that time comes," she said huffily, yet when she learned from the letter, read in the leisured evening hour, that her surmise was correct, her motherly kindness responded at once.

"I found a woman friend," Kate wrote, "one like you, living alone, and therefore able to be hospitable, and I have been making myself useful here and earning a little; but there are always happenings that teach us women that we must strive for the settled life, so I am leaving kind Miss Miller and asking a chance to have a talk with my other dear friend Mrs. Morgan. I will arrive at the Hillside some time to-morrow."

The address on the letter was Moy. Now, Mrs. Morgan knew there were only two daily trains from Moy to the nearest railway station, and it was easy to infer that Kate would come by that which arrived in the afternoon, yet she did not send to meet her. Country people think little of long walks, besides farm horses are not always to be spared from the necessary work of the fields. Nevertheless, when the older woman saw the younger toiling up the slope that led to the farm, her countenance fell, and a sense of compunction seized her. "The poor thing," she said, "the poor thing!"

She hastily dropped the utensil she had been handling, and hurrying to the door took the girl in her arms. "I am glad and thankful to have you back," she said.

"And I am thankful to be with you," Kate answered, and delivered up the bag she had been carrying.

"You should have taken a car," Mrs. Morgan said, and led her visitor indoors, finding the most comfortable chair for her, and a footstool for her feet.

"You must not spoil me," Kate said smiling valiantly. "Hardness is more wholesome."

"You seem to have had a share of that since you went away."

"No, not really. There are angels in the world, and, do you know, I think most of them are widows or old maids? They are the people that make homes for waifs and strays."

"Do you mean to go on being one of those?" She tried to speak lightly, but there was concern in her tone."

"No; it is that I have come to talk about."

"Are you on for reconciliation with that man of yours?"

"He never should have been that, and I will never think of him as such again."

"Never is a long time, girlie. Do you not want to know anything about him?"

"What is there to know?"

"Only that they say he took a bout of drinking, but has picked himself up, and is all right again. Will nothing make you go back?"

"Nothing."

"Well, I am sorry. He is well liked and respected by his neighbours. There would be wives in plenty for him if you were out of the way. Now go upstairs, to your old room; tea will be ready when you come down."

As Kate withdrew, Mrs. Morgan looked after her, and the nod she gave said portentous things.

The newcomer felt unduly tired, and as she brushed out her hair before the glass that gave a greenish tinge to her complexion, she asked herself if she was falling into a decline, as her mother and Neil had done. If so, would not that be an easy solution of several difficult problems? But she felt she had no wish to die, the current of life ran too strong in her as yet.

Mrs. Morgan plied her with food at the tea-table till she laughingly said Nature rose in protest, then she was coaxed to rest on the sofa where, somewhat to her own surprise, she fell asleep. But afterwards she was quite bright, and it was then she unfolded her plans to her hostess. Did the latter think her father would lend her a hundred pounds? If she had that her way would seem clear enough. She would learn dressmaking on scientific principles; then, with skill at her finger-ends, and taste in her mind, she was quite sure she could adequately provide for herself. She would go to England and start in business there.

"Why in England?" Mrs. Morgan asked.

"One can lose oneself where there are so many people; in Ireland I don't think one can. And then the pay is better. You know why I want money?"

"No, why?"

"To pay Dick. I shall never have any pride in life, or in myself as long as I owe him a farthing. Oh, how mad I was to trust father with that paper! I suppose there is no chance of Dick's hearing that I am here for a few days?"

"Not much chance!"

"I don't want him to come after me again."

"Do you think he would? I am not so sure. Love can be wounded to death, girlie."

"He is not sensitive."

"Maybe he is not exactly what you think him."

(To be continued.)

Reviews.

In *The Englishwoman* for August, Mrs. Fawcett, in an article entitled "Our Balance Sheet," enumerates the evidences of the growth of support for the principle of Women's Suffrage in the country, and gives a word of warning to those who, unfortunately, not without reason, are allowing suspicion and fear of betrayal by men politicians to dominate their minds. "The Unmarried Mother in France," by Mrs. Gertrude Austin, gives an account of the writer's visit to the "Asile Michelet," in Paris, an asylum provided by the French Government for the unwed mother and her child. "The French authorities," she says, "are lenient and humane towards the unmarried mother, but they have yet to change the conditions which bring about her ruin." Everyone who is concerned about this question, affecting more than any other the true welfare of the State, and all who have given it, perhaps, only a passing thought should read this article. "Groceries" comes under the "Problems of the Day," and never, surely, was a problem so delicately and humorously treated. The moral is not obtruded, but the housewife will be painfully conscious of it, all the same. "Swahili Women" is the first instalment of an article by Miss A. Werner, a well-known authority on East Africa, who writes of what she has seen and knows. "The Women of Denmark," by Miss Hausen, deals with the present position of Women's Suffrage in the Danish Parliament. The tactics of Danish politicians are curiously like those of our own country. Mrs. Olga Hartly writes of the "Women's Hospital for Children," and Miss Margaret Holden contributes an excellent translation of a story by Lucien Jean, called "The Child."

A Primer of English Citizenship. By F. Swann. (Longmans, Green & Co. 1s. 6d.)

This little book deals in a very simple manner with the functions of Parliament, of local councils, and of courts and judges. It also contains chapters on soldiers and sailors, schools and scholars, the State and the Child, and England and the Empire.

The Case of Sibyl Kerr. (International Suffrage Shop. 1s.)

Illustrates the servants' point of view of the domestic service problem, and contains a plea for compulsory character notes.

The Wife in Ancient and Modern Times. By E. J. Schuster. (Sidgwick & Jackson. 1s. net.)

Dr. Ernest Schuster's most interesting study of the position of the married woman at various periods in history has been issued in an attractive and inexpensive form by Messrs. Sidgwick & Jackson. The question, "Is marriage a failure?" was put in former generations as well as in our own. Dr. Schuster has unearthed a curious work on the subject, published in 1602:—

"The whole effect produced is by no means attractive, but here and there one stumbles on observations which hit their mark. . . . Among these are certain comments on the proverb according to which women are 'Saints in the Church, angels in mien, devils in the house, owls in a window, magpies in the doorway, goats in the garden, &c.' Nor does the proverb speak untruth when it affirms that they are saints in the Church, for no one denies that they are more devout and of a more merciful disposition than men. . . . Devils they are in the house, because they sometimes scold. . . . It is necessary that they themselves should see to all things and correct what is wrong and scold. . . . And it is necessary that they should be magpies in the doorway, for they must bargain about every trifle when they purchase the necessaries of life. . . . Goats in the garden they are not; nay, they are the best gardeners in the world. And if they have no garden to their house they will make one in a box or a flower pot, and place it in their windows. . . . And one man will do more damage in a garden than three women."

Dr. Schuster devotes a sympathetic chapter to the movement for Women's Rights, and another to "Marriage and Free Union." Although strongly in favour of reform in the divorce laws, he is by no means a revolutionary. To quote from his last chapter:—

"If the noblest thing in life is to yield to every instinct without regard to the consequences, free union is undoubtedly preferable to marriage. If, on the other hand, the highest object is the performance of duties, the best help for the attainment of that object is a marriage between persons willing and able to bear each others' burdens, terminable by death alone."

V. E.

Toynbee Hall and the English Settlement Movement. By Dr. Werner Picht. Translated from the German by Lilian A. Cowell, Girton College, Cambridge. (Bell. 3s. 6d. net.)

Although full of admiration for the spirit which has animated the Settlement Movement, and for the work which has been carried out, the writer's conclusion is that, in its present form at least, it is a "high failure," partly because it is in danger of suffering "shipwreck on its own ideals, the severity of which it did not recognise," partly because Dr. Picht believes that the salvation of the working-man must be won by himself, and cannot be wrought from outside. More especially has the Movement failed when the Settlement has been established on a non-religious basis. Dr. Picht believes that the Workers' Education Association, to which he devotes the last part of his work, will succeed where the University Extension Movement has failed. "It is to be understood as a spiritual movement, since only a spiritual movement can solve the problem of the education of the working-man."

Praise is bestowed upon the women's side of the Movement, both in the Settlements, which have proved a valuable training-ground for social workers, and in the W.E.A., where Miss Margaret Macmillan has been one of the moving spirits. "In all these activities of the Association women take a lively share. Working class women show an increasing interest in intellectual questions."

V. E.

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Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Women and War

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

August 5th, 1914.

The greatest crisis known in all our national history is upon us. Nearly all Europe is at war, and our country is involved.

I have often made appeals to you to render services involving much hard work and self-sacrifice for the sake of the great cause which binds us all together. I have never asked in vain. I now make another and a different appeal. Let us members of the National Union bind ourselves together for the purpose of rendering the greatest possible aid to our country at this momentous epoch.

As long as there was any hope of peace most members of the National Union probably sought for peace and endeavoured to support those who were trying to maintain it. But we have another duty now. Now is the time for resolute effort and self-sacrifice on the part of every one of us to help our country; and probably the way in which we can best help it is by devising and carrying through some well thought out plan which can be worked at continuously over many months, to give aid and succour to women and children brought face to face with destitution in consequence of the war.

We have already appealed to our 500 Societies to make suggestions as to how best work of this kind could be done, and we have received many letters from individual members of the N.U. expressing a hope that some plan on these lines will be devised and recommended by the N.U. as a whole.

The Executive Committee will be considering these plans to-morrow, and our Societies will be communicated with as soon as possible.

In the midst of this time of terrible anxiety and grief, it is some little comfort to think that our large organisation which has been carefully built up during past years to promote Women's Suffrage, can be used now to help our country through this period of strain and sorrow. "He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." Let us show ourselves worthy of citizenship, whether our claim to it be recognised or not.

Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

WHAT WAR MEANS.

Great Women's Meeting at Kingsway Hall.

On Friday last came the first suggestion for a women's demonstration to put forward the views of women in the present ghastly crisis. On Sunday the first handbills for this meeting were issued. On Tuesday night the great Kingsway Hall was well-filled.

The first suggestion for the meeting came from organised working women, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the National Federation of Women Workers, and the Women's Labour League, but the International Suffrage Alliance, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and other Suffrage Unions agreed to co-operate, recognising the vast importance at this juncture of giving a platform to women from which their special standpoint could be enunciated. It seemed to them that this was in accordance with the fundamental principles of Suffragism—that women have an equal right with men to speak and to be heard. The resolutions drafted did not attempt to identify the meeting with any particular line of national policy, but merely expressed women's attitude to war in general, their earnest desire for peace, and their determination to use their utmost efforts to alleviate the inevitable misery which must follow on a European war, whether Britain were involved or no. It was further determined that every speaker should be responsible for her own utterances and those alone, and the meeting was advertised under the non-committal heading, "What War Means."

The organisations responsible for the meeting had obviously no time to reach their supporters, and they had therefore to rely on newspaper advertisement and handbills to make the meeting known. Hence no one could anticipate with certainty what the spirit and tone of the meeting would be. But all doubt was soon dispelled. The meeting did not rely on the speakers to tell it what to think. Those hundreds of women had clearly come, with few exceptions, with the object only to protest with all the strength that was in them against war, and, above all, against the participation of Britain in a European war. The speakers who spoke of resignation and acceptance of the burden were coldly received. All the enthusiasm and response of the meeting was for those who denounced the war, and called on the women of Europe, even at the eleventh hour, to fling themselves between the combatants. "Down tools" called some of the audience, and interjections as to the capitalistic origin of wars were frequent. The general feeling of the meeting clearly was that the people of the country did not want the war (would not have the war, these women wished to say), and that all the world over wars were made by a few diplomats and financiers, whilst the people had to pay. To many the tone of this meeting, gathered together in so haphazard a way, was a revelation of the force of anti-war feeling amongst women of the working-class.

Mrs. Fawcett, in opening the meeting, explained how it had been brought together, and how four days ago it was hoped that it might take the form of a demonstration in favour of European peace. "Whilst the child was alive I fasted and wept." But now the time for fasting and weeping had gone by. Europe was already at war, which Britain was to be involved in now. We must therefore concentrate ever effort on meeting the calamity, and try to alleviate the sufferings which must ensue. One ray of light she saw in the awful darkness. Where tens and twenties, a fortnight ago, thought of peace and realised the horrors of war, millions now were asking, "Why should this insensate devilry of war be allowed to go on?" Ibsen placed all his faith in the women and the workers. On them, said Mrs. Fawcett, lay all her hopes too.

Mrs. Creighton, who proposed the first resolution, appealed for the banishment of all bitterness of national feeling—the creation of an atmosphere of love and brotherhood, which might help to the restoration of peace amongst the nations. She urged, too, the value and necessity of united prayer.

To Mrs. Barton, who followed, was given the great reception of the evening. Obviously her sentiments were those which the audience shared and had come to hear. "The working people must refuse to have war," was the key-note of her speech. No enmity exists between the work-people of England and the work-people of Germany (and in support of this she told a touching story of a scene she had witnessed that day between an old British sailor and a party of young Germans—shaking hands and uttering their friendship and grief before they were sent to slaughter each other). Wars are made by diplomats, and financiers, and the Jingo press; but the people must resist—if necessary they must down tools. War *must not be*.

Then Mrs. Swanwick voiced the National Union standpoint, saying that though it stood for the vote only, certain principles were fundamental in its propaganda. It declared always that force was no remedy—and it declared perpetually that it believed that the great mass of women were on the side of peace. Woman was the guardian of the race. It was for her to replenish the earth when man had devastated it. She knew life as the people live it, and could bring into our international policy that human note so fatally lacking when international problems were discussed and dealt with like a game of chess. She concluded with a hope that by the way they met this crisis women would so establish their claim to enfranchisement that their husbands, lovers, brothers, sons would no longer seek to deny it.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, so well known for her work for peace, declared that never before had she so deeply realised the necessity for the women's voice in councils where the morality of the race was concerned. She declared that the double standard of morals, international and personal, was akin to the double standard for men and women, and would stand or fall with it.

Then came the international speakers. Miss Ehrson, of Germany (who was received with an ovation), Mrs. Malmberg of Finland, Mrs. Thormaian of Switzerland, and Mrs. Schwimmer, of Hungary, whose impassioned but restrained description of the horrors her country was already enduring sent shudders through her audience.

The resolution being put to the meeting was declared carried unanimously.

The further resolution calling on Women's Societies to use their organisations for the help of the sufferers was moved by Miss Mary Macarthur, who spoke, as she so well can, of the terrible privations already coming upon working women and girls. Mrs. George Cadbury seconded the resolution, and Dr. Marion Phillips supported with an appeal to well-to-do women to sacrifice and share, and ended on a note of hope that from the common privation and suffering would arise a real sisterhood, working for common needs, which no Government and no wars could ever break again.

This resolution was also unanimously carried, and before the meeting dispersed many offers of help were received.

The Resolutions.

(1) In this terrible hour, when the question of peace or war in Europe is depending on decisions which women have no direct power to shape, this meeting of women, held under the joint auspices of many women's organisations, yet desire to face their responsibilities as citizens in dealing with the situation which has been brought about by the present crisis.

They deplore the failure of peaceful negotiations, the failure to settle the present international differences by conciliation or arbitration, and the outbreak of war in Europe as an unparalleled disaster.

Women find themselves in the position of seeing all they most reverence and treasure, the home, the family, the race, subjected to irreparable injury, which they are powerless to avert. In addition to all the horrors of slaughter, women are to see their countries impoverished, their homes broken up, their children and their friends dying of starvation and disease.

Whatever its result, the conflict will leave mankind the poorer, will set back civilisation, and will be a powerful check to the amelioration of the condition of the masses of the people on which the real welfare of nations depends.

The women here assembled call upon the Governments of their several countries to support every effort made to restore peace, and urge all Governments not yet involved to work unceasingly towards a settlement, not by force, but by reason that by their united efforts the war may be speedily brought to an end.

(2) That this meeting urges Women's Societies to use their organisations for the help of those who will be the sufferers from the economic and industrial dislocation caused by the European war.

A number of telegrams were received, including the following from Lady Selborne: "Only just received letter. Earnestly hope peace may be preserved."

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DECLARES FOR EQUAL PAY FOR MEDICAL MEN AND MEDICAL WOMEN.

At the Congress which opened on July 28th in Aberdeen, Dr. Mary Bell, in moving a resolution declaring that the salaries paid to medical women should be the same as those paid to men, said recently an attempt had been made by a Government department to upset this principle by the appointment of one woman inspector under the Board of Control of the Mental Deficiency Act. She was thankful to say that the two selected women had both resigned, and the post was still open. The resolution was carried unanimously.

HOW SOME OF US LIVE.

HOME LIFE IN THE POTTERIES.

By Our Commissioner.

It has been noted that, despite the employment of women and girls in pottery-making, a large majority of married women in the Potteries are in the proverbial "woman's proper place"—the home. There are, here and there, married women who choose to work outside deliberately, for the express purpose of increasing the family income, usually bounded by the wage of the husband; but the majority of women workers here are either unmarried women or young girls. My own experience has been concerned a good deal with the married women who work, and the cause of their working has almost invariably been the delinquencies or misfortunes of a husband. He may be quite a good husband, but through no fault of his own have a badly paid job; or he may have other and worse drawbacks. There is no temptation for married women to work here, as in Lancashire. A wage of probably not more, or perhaps less, than 10s. a week is only alluring if one needs it badly.

Home life, of course, affects all who live in homes—men as well as women and children. But as the women and the babies are in the homes almost altogether, it of course affects them more in proportion. The babies in the Potteries are, perhaps, the worse sufferers. The infant death-rate for the year 1912 stood at the rate of 162 babies per 1,000. Lead-poisoning, as we saw last week, has a prejudicial ante-natal effect, but the number of women affected is not large enough to account for the loss of so many babies. It is, therefore, necessary to look elsewhere for the additional causes. We shall not have far to seek.

The Pottery borough of Stoke-on-Trent includes not only the "Five Towns" of Arnold Bennett's books, but yet another town of considerable size (Fenton) and outlying suburbs. Altogether the population is large enough to place the district sixth in the rank of large towns. To plunge into it from the mouth of the railway tunnel on the way from the North; or, again, in the railway train abruptly to leave the green pastures of agricultural Staffordshire on the way from the South, reminds one of leaving the proverbial Heaven to enter the Inferno. The low pottery chimneys, wide at the base and narrow at the top, like a funnel turned upside down, are squatting in almost every street, cheek by jowl with the homes of the workers. Shafts of coal-pits—for this is also the North Staffordshire coal-field—are thick on the ground, and here and there the flames from ironworks luridly glare on the surrounding squalor. The towns merge into each other for seven miles without a break, and a stranger has no idea when she has left one and entered another. Here and there is an apology for what was once a green field, and an odd tree appears occasionally—like angels' visits, few and far between.

There is one redeeming feature—the undulation of the ground. If that were flat, words would be even more inadequate to describe the dull horror of what would then obtain. Luckily, there are very few flat parts, and though the toil of climbing the banks is not trifling, it is amply repaid by rescue from a monotony which would otherwise be almost too depressing to be borne. But it is possible to get vistas here and there of another part of the district—of a cluster of pottery chimneys, of a grey-black church spire, of coal-pit shafts, or miles of sordid streets, or perhaps of the canal which winds its way through the towns. To the North may even be seen a grey hill-top leading to a fair and pleasant countryside; and to the South, a glimpse of green pasture-lands.

These views are only to be seen by the pilgrim, however. The woman at home has only the front of her street—a replica of her own front door, opening directly on to the street; or, should she have two doors, of her own little back yard and a glimpse of other little back yards. There are comparatively few well-to-do districts within the actual Potteries area. People who can afford to live out of it usually do so, though their livelihood may be obtained from within it. The consequence is that the area is left to industrial concerns and the homes of those who cannot afford to live away from their work. These homes (a circumstance not peculiar to the Potteries, alas!), being built for poor people, have no beauty and no convenience; they are shelters merely. And not always that; in some of the poorer districts I have been shown where the rain has descended on the bed whilst the family slept, and am familiar with signs that many of the homes are not sacred from the intrusions of bad weather.

The streets of this district are usually narrow, and the peculiar texture of the mud, described by Arnold Bennett in some of his books, is not a romance of his—it is barest fact. Should the weather be wet, you are literally "over shoe-tops"; but if it is fine, and there is but the gentlest breeze, you are even worse off, for then the peculiarity of the mud is that it picks itself up and besmirches you from head to foot, instead of confining its attentions to your boots. On a windy day the dry mud of the roads mingles with the smoke poured out of the ovens on firing days, and with the coal slag from the pit-mouths. Here and there, at a street end, or dumped on a convenient bit of waste land, always in close vicinity to the doors and windows of many homes, is a "shawd-ruck" which, being interpreted, means a huge mass of pot-bank refuse. The grit from these "rucks" mingles with the other ingredients which pollute the air, and enters human throats and lungs and eyes, and the general filth wraps you round in a firm and unescapable embrace. After a few hours spent in the streets, where the women of the Potteries make homes, on a windy day I have literally become "as black as a tinker," and only the other day was an object of much merriment to some schoolgirls whom I encountered on my way to soap and water.

This air, loaded with industrial impurities, is the only kind there is to breathe in the Potteries. The grime which blackens the face of the pedestrian, of course, enters the homes of the people. One steps into the little front room straight out of the horrid little street. The table and chairs, the bits of pottery on the shelf in the corner, are perhaps covered with what is flying about outside; the brick floor with the imprints of boots which have traversed the pot-banks, the coal-pits, and the streets. I do not need to be told that the housewife "cleaned up" recently; I know she did. If she stood with a mop in one hand and a duster in the other all day long, she could not cope with the onslaught of industrial dirt which invades her "sacred" precinct, the home.

And the "home-maker" has other things to do. There is the weekly washing day—a nightmare of annoyance and inconvenience. After the clothes have been washed there is the drying. The back yard—if there is one—is often too small to hold much in the way of clothing. A sheet, for instance, needs a little room for the wind to act upon it. In the yard it probably only swings away from one dirty wall into dangerous proximity to another; so it must perforce go out into the street—the back street if there is one, the front street otherwise. The other day I passed a whole front street full of family washing. At the street end was the inevitable pot-bank. Clouds of filth were pouring out all over the washing! Next week the wind may be in another direction, and this particular street may escape. But then the "home-makers" on the other side of the pot-bank will get the benefit of it! Not a single woman who lives in a neighbourhood such as this can ensure good air for her babies, nor clean homes, nor clean food, nor clean clothing—be she ever so devoted to "woman's sphere."

It can be imagined that surroundings and conditions like these have a demoralising effect. How could it be otherwise? The Potteries people have often been described by journalists who have paid them a flying visit, as degraded, and stigmas on their personal worth have been common enough. I have much more than passing knowledge, and am bound to say that they are neither better nor worse, probably, than most other folk. But they are human; and if they are the victims of inhuman and degrading conditions, it were surely worse than folly to blame them because they suffer from the effects.

The men, of course, do not escape the effects of the conditions amongst which they grow up. They are not ideal, taken as a whole, as helpmeets. It is only exceptional men (I am glad to testify that there are some) who think it "a man's job" to help a woman out of domestic difficulties; and if there are burdens extraordinary to be borne, it is nearly always the woman who takes the extraordinary share. The other day, I met a woman who had been in receipt of sickness benefit; under the Insurance Act, and who to my amazement, as she was still ill, had "signed off." It turned out that it was the husband who had "signed her off," because she was not allowed to do any housework whilst in receipt of it. "I had even to wash my own shirt!" he said to me, as if positively the last degradation which could be heaped on the male person had been offered to him.

Another man absolutely refused to allow his wife to avail

herself of legal help, which was offered to her free of cost, because he "was not going to have any bother!" Yet another man, only the other day, ordered the lodger—a young married woman paying 2s. 6d. a week for the front room for herself, husband, and a baby—to fetch in her family washing, which was hanging out to dry, as he objected to its being seen outside his house on a Saturday afternoon (she had been at work all the week, and had had to wash on Saturday). It is only fair to add that when this particular gentleman learnt that I was in the house, he allowed the washing to remain out! His wife had been his emissary, and he had not known that I was listening to his loudly-expressed orders. This, however, is a typical instance of the male attitude in this district. Though scorning domestic work themselves many of the men reserve the right to be "master of their own houses."

There is a good deal of sickness amongst men, resulting from the dangers of their employment and of conditions generally, and this is a potent cause of the married women working, and of much of the prevailing poverty. Many men earn quite decent wages alike at pottery-making, mining, and as iron-workers; though it is distinctly not true, as I heard one lady tell another—as they both sat behind me in a 'bus in the Potteries the other day—that "the men all earn four or five pounds a week, and yet they live in houses like these!" (We were passing through a characteristic neighbourhood.) A very large majority earn much less than half that, and thousands are engaged in unskilled branches of the chief industries, and get wretched wages, averaging less than a pound a week.

Is it any wonder that the women are aged-looking at forty, and that the babies die? I need not say another word as to why they die. The tragedies of low wages, of poverty and want, of industrial disease and dirt, of wretched homes (not exclusive to the Potteries, though common there) are part of a huge social problem which is crying out for courageous solution. Surely women, who suffer so much from the tragedy, have something to contribute to the solution?

(Next week: The Girl Behind the Counter.)

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

The Active Service Leaguers of the West Midland and West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federations started, on July 27th, for a tour in Shropshire and Montgomery.

During the first week we have visited Newport, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Wem, and Ellesmere, and in all these towns great interest has been aroused. Our cavalcade consisted of several cyclists, one motor-car, and a pony cart. This latter was an excellent advertisement, and attracted a great deal of notice, being decorated with the N.U. colours, and drawing attention to the fact that we were law-abiding Suffragists. The same experience greeted us at every stopping-place; the inhabitants looked upon us at first with curiosity, mingled with fear as to what would be the outcome of our visit. Then a great gathering in the evening, at the close of which men and women were ready, and in some cases quite eager, to sign "Friends'" cards, and copies of The Common Cause were invariably sold out. Before leaving each town, we followed up the good impression left by the evening's meeting by house to house canvassing.

Reading from left to right—Miss Knight, Miss Harley, Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown.

The Active Service League uniform was noticed wherever we went, and drew forth many comments. One severe-looking person, evidently an Anti-suffragist, was heard to observe to her companion, as one of the Leaguers came into view, "That's the fifteenth I've counted; disgraceful, isn't it?" Whether it was the quiet, workman-like uniform that was disgraceful, or the fact that so many of these terrible Suffragists were about, is left to the imagination.

The speakers were Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and Miss Knight. The other Leaguers did yeoman service, not only in distributing literature and canvassing, but in drawing together sincere groups of people and talking to them about Suffrage. Three hundred and ninety-two "Friends" have been enrolled, and twenty-four dozen copies of The Common Cause sold.

WOMEN AS FRUIT FARMERS.

The field of women's work and opportunity is still widening. The interesting experiment, or rather achievement, which Miss K. M. Courtauld has carried through on her father's estate at Earl's Colne, in Essex, indicates large possibilities which women will not be slow to realise and develop. Miss Courtauld has established at Earl's Colne a farm of some 350 acres, which she works on the most modern lines, and the results she has already achieved compare very favourably with those attained by men farmers in the same county. General farming is carried out with success, but the chief business of the farm is fruit growing, upwards of 8 acres being under cultivation.

All departments of the farm are under the personal supervision of Miss Courtauld. The latest development is the opening of a school of fruit farming for women students. The school is being organised by Miss Courtauld herself, and will be under the management of a personal friend, who has been associated with her on the farm.

AN A.S.L. CARAVAN TOUR.

This tour organised by Little Kingshill, of the Mid Bucks Society, was conducted from July 20th to 25th by Miss Wright and Miss Dering Curtois, with Miss Lily Wooster, its objective the outlying villages of Mid Bucks. The campaign started at Weston Turville, when Miss Dering Curtois, President of the C.U.W.F. Debating Society, gave an able address.

At the meeting held at Wing on Tuesday, Miss Stirling, from London, spoke. Several men came next morning to ask for "Friends'" cards to sign, and the colours to wear.

On Wednesday a good meeting was held on the Green at Oving, when Miss Stirling and Miss Curtois spoke. Mrs. Savory, Vice-President of the Society, was the chief speaker at the meetings held on Thursday at Quainton and Waddesdon. At Waddesdon the meeting was particularly large and appreciative, and the resolution was passed *nem. con.*

On Friday we were joined at Cuddington by Miss Farnell, an Oxford Extension lecturer. The tour was ended at Stoke Mandeville. During the week three new members and 59 "Friends" were gained. In the autumn it is hoped to form a few local Branches.

It was very gratifying to find that the working-men grasped the justice of our claim. One proud father pointed to his baby in his arms and said "I wish her to have the vote, as I know what it has done for me." The respect shown to the honoured name of our President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, and the appreciation of her life work for the cause of womanhood was very marked throughout the route, and by all classes. One aged man said: "I'm past all this, but you've my best wishes if you're followers of Mrs. Fawcett; she is a good woman."

Our thanks are due to Miss Neill who kindly assisted at two meetings, and to the many kind friends who offered hospitality.

"A VERY COMFORTABLE BERTH."

Miss Wallis spoke as follows at the recent Wesleyan Conference:—

"She was at a small dinner party the other day, and a man there told her that in his earlier days he was at the heart of the movement for the improvement of the social life of his fellows, and he talked of the leaders with whom he had been associated. When he had finished she said, 'And what are you doing now?' With a careless shrug of the shoulders he replied, 'I have got into a very comfortable berth.' . . . Did the members of that Conference know anything in the world which so killed their fine enthusiasm and their passion for souls as did the deadening power of too much comfort? She believed that this was where their weakness lay to-day.

"She had been reading the life of her favourite saint, Santa Theresa, of Avila, who, in speaking to her sisterhood, said, Christ had no house, but a stable, and no room, but a cross. Should they not pray, 'From all perils of too much comfort in houses and other possessions, Good Lord, deliver us?'"

ELECTION FIGHTING FUND.

Reports come in from all over the country—from Lancashire, Durham, Edinburgh, S. Wales, E. Bristol, Yorkshire—of Fighting Fund work making rapid and steady progress. The work of the last month has been mainly two-fold :—

(1) Open-air propaganda.
(2) Registration.

In N. Monmouth (Mr. McKenna's constituency) there have been seventeen open-air meetings (speakers, Miss Margaret Robertson, Miss Foxley, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Newton Harris); in Leith Burghs, Midlothian, and S. Edinburgh, 26 (speakers, Mrs. Aldersley, Miss Low, Mrs. Shaw Maclaren, Miss Pressley Smith, and members of the Active Service League); in Barnard Castle, 19; whilst in all the other constituencies regular weekly or fortnightly meetings have been held. Mrs. Townley reports valuable help received in East Bristol (Mr. Hobhouse's constituency) from the Labour Councillors and from Mr. W. Bottomley and Miss M. C. Tothill. Moreover, in the Manchester Federation, where the "special campaign" is popular, an excellent week has been held in Blackburn (Mr. Philip Snowden's constituency) by Mrs. Annot Robinson, with between twenty and thirty open-air meetings. All speak of successful and enthusiastic meetings, and the N.E. Federation report that in a couple of very "anti-Labour" villages in one of their E.F.F. constituencies, where neither the candidate nor agent have been able to get a foothold, "Suffrage only" meetings are being held to break the ice.

Mrs. Cooper reports from N. Monmouth a number of Suffrage resolutions passed—twenty-two in all—by organisations representing 19,050 workers. She tabulates them as follows: one Church; two Steel Forges; three General Workers' Union; one Dockers' Union; one Trades Council; and fourteen Miners' Lodges. Also the Co-operative Employees' Union in East Bristol have passed a Suffrage resolution after an address from Mrs. Townley. One hundred and sixty-eight copies of The Common Cause have been sold at the meetings in N. Monmouth, and 310 in Leith Burghs and Midlothian. But the chief interest lately has been registration, and to this our organisers have been devoting most of their attention, with the result that thousands of men will be voting Labour at the next election who have never been in a position to vote before. In all the E.F.F. constituencies we have been helping to form ward committees to carry out the work, and our organisers seem to have shown much ingenuity in finding ways of tracing Labour supporters (through the trade unions, workmen's clubs, &c.), and getting them on to the register. It is a notable fact, however, that the Labour agents show an eagerness, which is in great contrast to the attitude of the agents of the other parties, to get *all* qualified men on to the register, whichever party is going to have the benefit of their vote. They say: "We believe in democracy, so we shall help this man to get his vote, whether he is going to vote with us or not."

The North-Eastern Federation report a curious fear amongst the young miners, which prevents them from claiming votes as lodgers. They believe that if they were killed in the pit their relatives would get compensation only on the amount they say they pay as rent. Legal opinion has been taken, and it has been proved that this is not so; but the dread persists, with the result that many a son with a widowed mother gets her to let him be entered as occupier instead of lodger. All right for him—but she loses her municipal vote!

There are some humorous instances of misdescription of qualifying property. One man, who should have described his dwelling as "Freehold House," put instead "2 rooms, 12 ft. long by 15 and 9 high, next the Red Lion."

From Accrington Mrs. Tozer reports much house to house visiting—and those who have been lately to Accrington know the excellent feeling which has been created there through this personal work. She also speaks of the Joint Labour and Suffrage Committees, which are the backbone of the work in Accrington.

In W. Bradford and E. Leeds the work has been only recently begun, but Miss Hilston and Mrs. Renton have been appointed by the West Bradford Parliamentary Committee on to the Advisory Committee, which plans all the work for the constituency. Miss Hilston reports the women most enthusiastic, and the Labour Party in East Leeds eager for our co-operation.

In Rotherham (Mr. Pease's constituency) a candidate is at last definitely in the field, Mr. James Walker, Councillor of Glasgow (of the Steel-Smelters' Union). He is an old member of the I.L.P., and a strong Suffragist, and should make a splendid candidate.

The Press attitude seems, in many districts at any rate, to be improving. In S. Wales we get especially good treatment—full, fair, and sympathetic reports. In Bradford, Leith Burghs, and now in Bishop Auckland, Labour papers are issued, and we hear that Miss Pressley Smith contributed an excellent article to the June number of the *Leith Burghs Worker*.

Efforts are being made in some areas to raise funds. A sale of work is being organised by the Women's Labour League in Bishop Auckland, and in East Bristol Mrs. Townley is calling together all the organised women with a view to a big money-raising effort.

Our general impression from the reports sent in is that we have now got our teeth into the serious political work, and it is tough—but we are tackling it with great effect.

MATERNITY CENTRES.

We understand that the Women's Co-operative Guild desires to express its great satisfaction at the Government's proposal to grant a sum of £12,000 to public health authorities for maternity centres.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emmy M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1980 Victoria.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1914		7,854	12 3
Received July 20th to 27th :—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Powell		1	0
Miss Rose B. Swayne		2	6
Mrs. L. Willoughby Brown		10	6
Miss S. Gatliff	1	1	0
Mr. H. E. Kittle		2	6
Donations.			
Miss Ethel Mathieson (Special donation)	1	0	0
Miss C. Macmillan (Special donation)	1	0	0
Miss I. O. Ford (Special donation)	1	0	0
Miss S. J. Tanner (Special donation)		10	0
Miss E. M. L. Atkinson (Special donation)		15	0
London W.S.S.	4	5	3
Somerville College W.S.S. (Self-denial week)	3	4	0
Mrs. A. B. Bryans (Educational campaign)	1	1	0
Miss Catharine Courtauld	100	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.			
Miss A. Maud Dowson	1	0	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Heaton Moor W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		3	6
Pontypridd W.S.S.		12	6
Northallerton W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		2	6
	£7,976	3	6

Note.—Miss H. Ward's temporary editorship of The Common Cause came to an end with the issue of July 31st.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The British Red Cross Society does not exist, as has sometimes been thought, to undertake itself the whole work of ministering to the sick and wounded. It is purely a contributory body. In time of war it acts under the directions of the Admiralty and the War Office, and its activities are limited by the nature of the war and of the climatic conditions under which it is being fought. The 60,000 members are registered at a number of branches spread throughout the country, each of which can decide for itself in what manner it will assist when assistance is asked for. The following decision of the Society may be quoted :—"The contributions of each branch will be kept distinct, will be vested in funds approved by the Trustees Act, will be employed only in wars in which British forces are engaged, and will, in such event, be devoted, as far as is possible, to the particular purpose determined by the branch."

The forms of aid which the Society is prepared to supply are many. They include the provision and equipment of hospital ships and trains, hospitals and convalescent homes, hospital requisites, clothing, toilet requisites, medical comforts, and food. To these may be added chocolate, playing cards, games, stationery, pipes, and tobacco.

The British Red Cross Society is recognised by the War Office and the Admiralty as the organisation responsible for the Red Cross Movement throughout the British Empire, and the terms of the arrangement between the heads of the Services and the Society is included in "Field Service Regulations" (p. 108).

. . . . . .

The Navy League has issued an appeal to the members of its branches throughout Great Britain to organise a special nursing contingent for service. The nurses who volunteer for duty will co-operate with the Red Cross Society. Individual members not attached to country branches should communicate direct with the secretary of the Navy League, 11, Victoria Street, S.W.

The War Office has applied to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary to provide a corps of nurses for active service, and there have been many volunteers.

. . . . . .

Florence Nightingale.

"Florence Nightingale to Her Nurses" (Macmillan, 1s. net) is an unpretending little volume which may yet have an incalculably elevating effect on those into whose hands it falls. The book consists of a selection from the famous nurse's addresses to probationers and nurses of the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital. The custom of Miss Nightingale between the years 1872 and 1900 was, when she was able, to send an annual letter or address to the probationer-nurses. These were usually read aloud. The letters were not meant for publication, and are hardly suitable to be printed as a whole, but in making the slight necessary emendations it is hoped that nothing has been done that Miss Nightingale would not have done herself if she had corrected the proofs.

News from the Societies and Federations.

South Wales and Monmouthshire.

CARDIFF.—The energies of the Cardiff Society this month have been given to an open-air campaign, during which a number of meetings have been held at Grangetown, Cathay's Park, and opposite Gladstone Schools. Among the speakers have been Miss Foxley, M.A., Miss Ashton-Jones, Mr. Shaschy, B.Sc., Mr. Jenkins, Rev. W. L. Robertson, M.A., Dr. Jones, Mrs. Lucan Davies, M.A., Rev. B. Grey Griffith, Mrs. Whalley, Mr. T. W. Johnson, and Mr. Scholefield. At several of these meetings a large crowd listened with great interest for over an hour, sometimes in the pouring rain—a convincing proof of the vitality of our cause. At Cathay's Park on July 14th, Rev. B. Grey Griffith was in the chair, and in his opening remarks explained that the Suffragists were not out for their own benefit but for that of the nation at large. Miss Ashton-Jones gave an account of the Suffrage campaign which had just come to a successful conclusion in Llandrindod Wells, and Mrs. Whalley spoke on "Women as the Mothers of the Nation."

Many "Friends" were enrolled, during the campaign, and a large quantity of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. Numerous leaflets were also distributed, and at some of the meetings a collection was taken. Questions were convincingly dealt with by our speakers, and altogether the campaign has been a great success.

CAERPHILLY BRANCH.—In connection with the outdoor campaign organised by the Cardiff Society, an excellent meeting was held here on July 3rd. An orderly and interested crowd of about 600 assembled. Councillor W. L. Jenkins presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. William Harris (Organiser to the Miners' Federation), Miss Ashton-Jones, and Mrs. Lucan Davies, M.A. The audience so much enjoyed the latter lady's spirited address that they were loth to let her leave off in time to catch her train, and the speakers, together with Miss Nautet's brigade of indefatigable literature helpers, were escorted to the station by a band of sympathisers. The collection amounted to 6s. 8½d., forty-two copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and thirty-four F.W.S. enrolled.

July 17.—A very large open-air meeting was held here on The Twyn. Rev. W. E. Pryce-Evans was in the chair, and the crowd of miners and other working-men listened with intense interest to the speeches of Mrs. Whalley and Miss Ashton-Jones. Forty-eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and fifty-seven F.W.S. enrolled; leaflets, over 1,000, were accepted and read eagerly.

BARRY BRANCH.—July 18th—A garden party was given by the President and Committee at Anwylfan. The Rev. Charles Share took the chair. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant gave an address, which was followed with great interest by her audience. Twenty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and also pamphlets and badges. These brought in 13s. 3d.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS.—The South Wales and Monmouthshire Federation has arranged a series of campaigns at various health resorts this summer, and began with a most successful week at Llandrindod Wells, where an open-air meeting was held every morning in the Rock Park Gardens. Many visitors who at first stopped merely out of curiosity to hear what the "Suffragettes" had to say, remained to listen with real interest to our speakers, some turning up at every meeting till the end of the week.

It is quite impossible in a short account to give an adequate idea of the sympathy and encouragement we received. On the second day it was most cheering to be greeted by many of our own N.U. members from different parts of the country; to see them wearing our badge and to be met by requests for notices of our campaign and F.W.S. cards for their respective hotels. Over 100 F.W.S. cards were signed, many of them by people who promised to do active work for their local Society when they got home again.

In the afternoons we paid "flying matinées" to the surrounding districts. Most interesting little meetings these were. On one occasion, at Llanwrtyd Wells, where the sole advertising of the meeting had been four home-made posters, we wondered if we should have any audience at all. And when we found that the road to our pitch was a mile and a half from the station, and hot and dusty and uphill, we wondered still more. However, when we arrived at the crest of the hill we were greeted with a burst of clapping and applause, and we had a most interested and orderly crowd of about 200 to listen to us.

Over and over again in the course of the week we have been told that this was the first Suffrage meeting our listeners had ever attended, and this remark was nearly always followed up by promise of future interest. We took a collection at every meeting (good ones, too!) and help came from unexpected quarters. On one occasion the town-crier of Builth gave half his fee to the collecion, and on the morning after our big indoor meeting, we were cheered by receiving a cheque from a member of our audience—a woman who is one of the largest ratepayers in Llandrindod, and whose vision of Suffrage had hitherto been obscured by militancy.

Our speakers during the week were Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Farnsworth, Miss H. F. Knight, Miss Foxley, M.A., and Miss Ashton-Jones, who was also the organiser in charge.

The eloquence of Miss Helen Fraser and her logical and well-balanced statements, were freely commented upon by our audiences and, indeed, by the *Radnor Express* in a leading article. To this paper also we owe a debt of thanks, for it mentioned us no less than six times on four different pages of that week's issue!

Of course we sold dozens of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE, gave away thousands of free leaflets, and sold a considerable amount of our literature as well. Our first holiday campaign has been successful, and we are now all looking forward to others equally happy and encouraging.

NEATH.—This Society has made such remarkable progress during the last few months that the attention of the whole Federation and, indeed, of the Union, should be directed to it.

Miss Chambers started to work in 1913 by addressing a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council, and organised two public meetings from which the new Society was organised. In July of the same year Miss Tapper resigned her secretaryship and Mr. Graham took her place. There were then about twenty-eight members. Neither the Committee nor the members attended meetings called during the autumn, and Mr. Graham appealed to Miss Foxley. Miss Harvey then appeared on the scene as organiser for the Federation. A public meeting was held in January of this year and addressed by Miss Foxley. Mrs. A. S. Tonner, B.A., was elected secretary, and later Mr. Coombe Tennant became president. Since then the Society has been going ahead by leaps and bounds, and is conspicuous for the active co-operation of all political and religious parties. The Society owes a debt to Mr. Graham for having kept the flag flying during a trying period, and for having appealed to Miss Foxley so effectively. The meetings held at Neath are very fully reported in the *Neath Standard*, and the attention of the public is drawn to their admirable organisation in an editorial advisory, "mere men organisers" to place themselves "under tuition." During this month one meeting has been held.

July 2nd, in the Gwyn Hall—A public meeting—Chairman, Mr. Coombe Tennant. Speaker, Lady Betty Balfour, who moved the resolution: "This meeting demands a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men." The Rev. Edward Morgan seconded the resolution. Questions were solicited in writing, and the *Neath Standard* reports no fewer than eleven of these with the answers given to them. The resolution was carried with only three opponents. The Mayor of Neath proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Betty Balfour, which was seconded by Mr. Rowlands.

Neath now ranks fourth in numbers in the Federation and talks of overtaking Swansea.

SWANSEA.—July 3rd—Mrs. Aeron Thomas entertained between two and three hundred guests in the grounds of Dolgoy, West Cross. Lady Betty Balfour and Mrs. Coombe Tennant addressed the meeting, and Miss Dillwye occupied the chair. A resolution calling for a Government measure was carried unanimously. Ten new members joined and the collection amounted to over £6. The *Neath Standard*, after devoting over four columns to a detailed report of the arguments used by each speaker at the Neath and Swansea meetings, ends with two short paragraphs describing the dresses and hats worn by Lady Betty Balfour and Mrs. Coombe Tennant. The transition of thought gives a Suffragist a shock, but one recovers oneself to realise that it illustrates a passing order. It is a great thing to have the proportion of space alloted, so reversed!

LAMPETER.—July 23rd—A meeting was held at the Victoria Hall. Chair, Councillor Walter Davies. Speaker, Mrs. Coombe-Tennant. All the copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold out. Sixteen new members were enrolled and several more promised to join later.

HAY.—July 8th—An afternoon meeting was addressed by Miss Helen Fraser. There was a very attentive and interested audience of about eighty. Ten new members were enrolled. Two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, beside other literature. The collection amounted to £1 0s. 2d.

PORT TALBOT.—July 1st—A meeting of the Society in the Constitutional Hall. Chair, The Mayor of Aberavon. Speaker, Lady Betty Balfour, who proposed a resolution which was seconded by Mrs. Coombe-Tennant. There was a large sale of Suffrage literature, and many new members joined the Society.

Miss Foxley, organiser for the Federation, reports that an active and successful propaganda has been carried on in Mr. McKenna's constituency by means of outdoor meetings. Three of these were organised by the vigorous young Society at Pontypool with Mrs. Lucan Davies as speaker. This Society is also sending a deputation to the Conservative candidate for N. Monmouth. The meetings which were proposed to be held in the country places round Abergavenny, fell through owing to the great loss sustained by that Society in the death of its secretary, Miss Gardner. Other meetings have been arranged by Mrs. Cooper, the E.F.F. organiser in N. Monmouth, with Miss Harris as additional speaker. Two of these were addressed by Miss Foxley. The chief meeting of this series was that addressed by Miss Margaret Roberton at Pontypool. There is little opposition in the country districts and smaller mining towns, but much ignorance and apathy, contrasting strongly with the cordial support given to Federation speakers in the more tynically Welsh valleys, where most of our work has been hitherto and where local chairmen and stewards are available.

Meetings announced, but of which no reports have been received, are: July 2nd—Llanhilleth—Speakers, Mrs. Cooper and Miss Foxley. July 4th—Pontnewydd—Speakers, Mrs. Cooper and Miss Foxley. July 20th-25th—Tenby—Speaker, Mrs. Whalley.

LAMPETER.—On July 23rd, the above Society held a most successful meeting at the Victoria Hall, when Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, of Cadoxton Lodge, Neath, ably addressed a large audience on the need of obtaining a true knowledge of the Women's Suffrage question.

At the conclusion of the meeting the following resolution was passed with only two dissentients: "That this meeting emphatically protests against the action of the militants and demands a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women."

Sixteen new members were added to the Lampeter Society. Councillor Walter Davies was in the chair.

South Western Federation.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

During July work has been undertaken in Newquay and South Molton. In the former place there has been an independent society for some time, and this has now been affiliated to the National Union. Miss Frost spent about a week at Newquay, organising the re-formed society and explaining the policy. The Vicar of Newquay has kindly consented to be President, and a Nonconformist minister will be Vice-President. A most successful drawing-room meeting was held, at which Miss Frost spoke, and Newquay promises to do plenty of good work in the autumn.

In South Molton a great deal of canvassing has been done, and Miss Frost has been most ably assisted by Mrs. Smart and Miss Baly. A stall in the market has been the means of doing much excellent propaganda work. Many questions have been asked, notably on the part of the Liberal agent, who did not at first disclose his identity.

On July 20th an open-air meeting was held at George Nympton, a small village about four miles from South Molton. The people were much interested, and ten became "Friends." Miss Hodge most kindly took the chair.

On July 23rd a meeting was held in the Town Hall, the chair being taken by Miss Shapcott, while Mrs. Smart spoke on the "History of the Women's Movement," and Miss Frost on "The Vote as a Symbol of Freedom." The audience was most interested and enthusiastic, and although Women's Suffrage is a new idea to the people of South Molton sixteen people promised to be members, and fifteen joined as "Friends." Thirty-six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and the collection amounted to £1.

TORQUAY.—On July 13th the members of the Torquay Trades Council attended a meeting at 19, Abbey Road, the office of the Torquay Women's Suffrage Society, and listened to a most eloquent speech by Miss M. P. Willcocks, B.A., in which she showed that women were equally interested with men in legislation, and gave instances from recent acts which have been passed. The chair was taken by Miss Palmer (Sec. of Torquay Society), who is hopeful that many members of the Trades Council will join, now that they realise that Suffrage does not consist only of militancy.

TRURO.—An open-air meeting was arranged to take place on Saturday July 18th, but owing to the inclemency of the weather an adjournment had to be made to the Corn Exchange. Dr. Mabel Ramsay gave an address, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

EXETER.—By kind permission of Mrs. Walter Pring a most successful garden fête was held at Spreytonway. Nearly 200 people were present, and were most amused by the various items in the programme, which included children's dances, a French auction, &c., and an amusing dialogue "Shattered Nerves." Refreshments were served at small tables; altogether the proceeds amounted to £20.

The results of the market stall which the Exeter Society has engaged this year, have been most satisfactory. Hundreds of leaflets have been distributed, and thus the aims of the Suffrage movement have been brought before people who would not otherwise be reached.

PLYMOUTH.—This Society has followed the example set by Exeter, and has started a stall in the market for the sale of literature and THE COMMON CAUSE. It has been very well received, and is doing excellent propaganda work.

LAUNCESTON.—A meeting of members was arranged by Miss Werill, when Miss Mathieson explained the policy of the N.U. and the reasons which led to its adoption.

South Midland Federation.

This Federation, which comprises the counties of Leicester, Northampton, Rutland, and part of Lincolnshire, has started provisionally with the following officers:

President: Miss Gittins, 6, Salisbury Road, Leicester. Hon. Sec.: Miss L. M. B. Wright, Frisby Vicarage, Leicestershire. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Roberts, Crick Rectory, nr. Rugby. COMMON CAUSE Correspondent: Miss Sloane, 13, Welford Road, Leicester.

A meeting of representatives of Societies will be held after the summer holidays.

CRICK.—On July 25th the members of Long Buckby Adult School visited Crick at their own suggestion, bringing their tea and asking for a Suffrage address. They were joined in the Rectory garden by the Crick Suffrage members, and an address was given by the secretary, Mrs. Roberts. A discussion followed; nineteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and free literature was distributed. A collection was made, and 10s. handed over to the funds of the South Midland Federation. Various games and competitions were enjoyed when the meeting ended.

KETTERING.—A garden meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Percy Wallis on June 29th. Mrs. Manners of Mansfield was the speaker, and Mrs Chamberlain of Rothwell proposed a vote of thanks to her for her address. The meeting was followed by tea on the lawn, and by several amusing competitions, which were much appreciated. About sixty or seventy members and "Friends" were present, and several new members joined the Society.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—The open-air meeting, arranged for July 15th, at which Miss Blackstone was to have spoken, was postponed owing to a counter-attraction in the Market Place. More interest is being taken in Melton, and our members are gradually increasing.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—On July 9th—in conjunction with the local C.L.W.S—a successful garden party was held at Miss Lilley's "Archfield." The speakers were Miss I. O. Ford, N.U.W.S.S., and the Rev. W. Roberts, C.L.W.S. Miss Ford's speech delighted everyone, and she was requested to address a meeting later in the year at a town close by. A brisk sale was carried on at the Jumble stall, and the Small Work stall. There was a croquet competition, and a numerous audience very much enjoyed the performance of "A Chat With Mrs. Chicky." Two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold; more might have been, but unfortunately the secretary had under-estimated the probable demand. Nine new members joined the N.U. and twelve "Friends" were enrolled. The charges were very low—6d. entrance, including tea, and 3d. after 5.30 p.m.—and the profits were divided between the two Societies, yet the Wellingborough branch of the N.U. were able to send £5 to the new South-Midland Federation to which it belongs, and which is badly in need of funds.

NORTHAMPTON.—On July 23rd, a garden party was held by kind invitation of Councillor and Mrs. J. Woods, in their garden at 5, Spencer Parade. Between seventy and eighty members of the Society and their friends were present. Mrs. Harvie was in the chair, and Miss Ruth Giles gave an address, dealing with the life and work of Josephine Butler. There was also a musical programme and a dramatic dialogue was given by friends from Wellingborough. Other attractions were provided in the form of cake, sweets and fancy stalls, and clock-golf competition. The proceedings were marked by much enthusiasm, two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and nine new members enrolled. Tea was generously provided by Mrs. Woods and, as a result of the function, £4 10s. was added to the funds of the Society.

Village meetings have also been held during the month. On July 2nd, members of the Society, accompanied by the Rev. W. Harvey, addressed a fairly good meeting at Lower Heyford. Much interest seems to have been aroused in the village.

On July 7th, a return visit was made to Ecton, where the local members were joined by friends from Kettering.

On July 27th, an excellent meeting was held at Earl's Barton. An audience of nearly 200, including many men, assembled, and listened attentively to speeches from Mrs. Harvie and other ladies, the Rev. W. Selbie (Earl's Barton) kindly presiding.

ORGANISERS' REPORT.

During the past month the organisers have been working in Leicester and the neighbouring districts, and have had some successful open-air meetings. They have also addressed meetings of the Coalville Trades Council and various adult schools. Meetings were held in Croft, Horncote and Oadby, at which forty-five people signed "Friends" of Women's Suffrage cards. Two successful meetings have been held in Leicester Market Place, at which fifty-one copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and several new members gained, and at each a resolution demanding a Government measure of Women Suffrage was carried. The speakers have been Miss Grace Hadow, Mr. A. J. Lucas, of Sydney, Mr. H. E. Doughty, and Miss Blackstone, and the chairmen Councillor Sydney Gimson and Mr. T. H. Vallance.

Miss Blackstone spent five days in Oundle, and spoke at a successful meeting in the Market Place, and work has been done in Uppingham by Miss Giles, to be followed, it is hoped, by work in the autumn.

East Midland Federation.

ORGANISING REPORT.

Since July 16th Miss Dutton has been doing valuable work in Chesterfield and among the N.E. Derbyshire villages. Under her guidance the Chesterfield Society has taken a large room to be used as a meeting place and office, and a programme of winter meetings has already been arranged. A good open-air meeting was held at Staveley, when a large orderly crowd was addressed by Miss Dutton. She also had a good meeting at Harland. Miss Dutton has also been in Matlock and arranged for work there in September, and has since then been at work in Belper and the mid-Derbyshire division, where it is hoped soon to form a Branch.

BURTON.—The Garden Fête and "White Elephant" sale promoted by the Burton W.S.S. in the pretty grounds of Torrington House, kindly lent by A. E. Brown, Esq. (Editor of *The Burton Daily Mail*) and Mrs. Brown, proved very successful. The proceedings were opened by Mrs. Chas. Tresise, supported by Alderman Chas. Tresise (proprietor of *The Burton Evening Gazette*) and many other friends. The weather was propitious, and the function will result in augmenting the funds of the Society some £9 or £10. The genial host, Mr. A. E. Brown, expressed a hope similarly to receive the Burton Society for their Garden Fête next summer. A photographer, Mr. Sinnett, was in attendance, and capital groups of the various proceedings were taken.

On Thursday, July 23rd, the Society closed for the holiday season the Literature Stall in the weekly market. Much good propaganda work has been done and a good number of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold during the weeks the stall has been held.

On Thursday, August 20th, will be held the next market "At Home" in Trias Walk Schools, when the speaker will be Mrs. A. Lambrick.

CHESTERFIELD.—July is a bad month for Suffrage work in Chesterfield as so many members are away. We have been, therefore, mainly busy with preparations for the winter's work. Two small drawing-room meetings have been held, one at the Red House, Brampton, when much interest was taken in Miss Dutton's speech; another at "Walton Rise," Chesterfield, when Miss Dutton again spoke. A number of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and people expressed a desire to come to the monthly lectures which are being arranged by the Society. Last winter it was difficult to do much educational work because we were unable to get a suitable room. Now we have taken a large room in the centre of the town. This has been decorated in the cheerful colours of the National Union and is most attractive. We intend to keep the room for our own use on Wednesdays for lectures, and on Saturday, which is market day, we propose to throw it open to country members as a reading and rest-room.

Miss Dutton has been visiting "Friends" in the surrounding districts and working up the membership of the Society. One open-air meeting has been held in Staveley; chairman, Miss Jessie Smith; speaker, Miss Dutton; one new member joined. The Chesterfield Society hope also to send a scholar to the St. Andrew's Summer School.

LINCOLN.—On June 22nd the annual meeting was held in the garden of The Quarry. About fifty members were present. The rules were altered and amended; the Treasurer made an appeal for subscriptions; Mrs. Hicks was elected President, and Miss E. Giles, Secretary; Miss L. Harrison kindly continuing as Treasurer. Miss Huddlestone explained the Active Service League and appealed for Leaguers.

On July 10th all the five hundred "Friends" of Women's Suffrage were invited by Mrs. Giles to The Quarry garden. Councillor A. Taylor (President Trades and Labour Council) took the chair; Miss Hartnell gave a beautiful short address; there was then an interval for refreshments followed by "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," acted by Miss Harrison and Miss Jones and much enjoyed by the audience. Although only about one hundred were present the results were very encouraging. Twenty-four "Friends" became members, and to many of these 1s. a year means much self-sacrifice.

On July 16th Mrs. Hicks kindly invited the members and others to tea and a garden meeting at the Old Palace. Although it was raining, one hundred people came; they listened with great interest to Miss Matters' inspiring and uplifting speech, in which she traced the women's movement from the time of Moses down to the present day. About eight new members joined, and much literature and several copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

MANSFIELD.—The leaflet *Militant Outrages* has been distributed in the town and district, and we have commenced selling THE COMMON CAUSE in the streets.

Manchester and District.

ALTRINCHAM.—A garden fête was held on July 15th at Woodend, Bowdon, by kind permission of Mrs. Alfred Haworth. There were stalls for china, books, cakes, aprons, baskets, and many entertainments, games, combined with ideal weather, made the fête most enjoyable and successful. Mrs. John Mills performed the opening ceremony, Mrs. O'Hanlon presided and was supported by Mrs. Haworth. The proceeds amounted to about £55. The Altrincham Society has recently appointed Mrs. Beth McCann as Organising Secretary.

BOLTON.—July 22nd.—Open-air meeting, held by Active Service League in Grove-street, Halliwell. Speakers, Rev. E. Morgan, Mrs. Addison, and Miss Johnson (Group Leader). Seventeen "Friends'" cards signed; six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Bolton enrolled forty-four new members during the "Lightning Campaign."

CONGLETON.—This Society held its first annual meeting on July 22nd. The President, Mrs. Harold Behrens, took the chair. The Hon. Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were read, the former showing a satisfactory balance in hand, the latter a considerable increase in membership, the number now being 107. The officers of the Society were re-elected, and four new members appointed on the Committee.

HEYWOOD.—Three open-air meetings have been held with increasing success. June 22: Speakers, Miss Harris and Rev. T. Tozer; several "Friends" joined. July 6th: Speakers, Mr. Beanland and Mr. J. Gleave; several "Friends" joined; seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. July 20: Speakers, Mrs. Müter Wilson and Rev. E. A. Glendy; thirty-nine "Friends"; thirteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Members' meetings have been held on "second Mondays" at St. John's Vicarage.

HYDE.—July 6th—Open-air meeting held in Market Place. Speaker, Mrs. Chew. Chair, Councillor Lowden, of Hyde. A record crowd. Five new members.

KNUTSFORD.—Open-air meeting, July 15th. Chairman, Mr. W. Eller. Speakers, Mrs. Chew and Mr. Eastwood. Members of Active Service League did yeoman service. Many "Friends" joined. Forty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

MANCHESTER.—The Manchester Society has held many open-air meetings, garden parties, &c., during June to advertise the Lightning Campaign, with the result that five hundred new members were enrolled. On an average four open-air meetings have been held each week round and about the city.

The Active Service League organised a successful open-air meeting at Northenden on July 15th. Thirty-three "Friends'" cards signed, and several new members joined. It is hoped to form a local Committee here during the autumn.

Garden parties have been held at Miss Taylor's, Stanford, Rusholme; Miss Woolley's, Fairhill, Kersal; Mrs. Simon's, The Beeches, Didsbury; Mrs. Hiller's, Oakholme, Alexandra Park; Mrs. Chapman's, Burnage Lodge, Levenshulme; and at Mrs. Conway's, Lapwing Lane, Didsbury. £41 6s. 3d. has been raised, and many members secured at these gatherings. Seventy members of the Hulme and Salford Suffrage Clubs took part in the annual picnic to Worsley on July 20th.

ROMILEY.—Saturday, July 4th, a garden party was held at Hill Croft. Hostess, Mrs. Morgan. There was a fair attendance. Five new members were gained.

London Society.

BATTERSEA.—A very successful open-air meeting was held on July 9th, Miss Beaumont in the chair. Miss Fawcett and Miss Fielden spoke to a large and attentive audience. Eight "Friends" were enrolled.

A garden party was held by the kind invitation of Mrs. McDade, M.D., at her home, Lavender Lodge, Lavender Hill, S.W., on July 9th. Dr. Smedley M'Lean was in the chair, and during her address delighted the audience with a translation of a Chinese poem, revealing an attitude of revolt in a Chinese woman 2,000 years ago. Mrs. A. Savory spoke on the practical aspect of Woman Suffrage; Miss Anton Lang provided an amusing interlude entitled "Emma Ann," and the meeting ended with an addition of twelve new members and twenty-seven "Friends."

BERMONDSEY.—A meeting for factory workers was held at 15a, Thorburn Square, by the kindness of Mrs. Lowe, on July 15th. About fifty girls were present and listened with great interest to Miss Elkin's speech. The resolution was carried unanimously, and nearly everyone present became a "Friend."

CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK.—An open-air meeting was held on July 21st on Chiswick Common at 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Rinder.

DEPTFORD.—Open-air meeting at Pepys Road, New Cross Gate, July 10th. Speakers, Miss Stoehr, Miss Fielden, Miss Goddard. Chair, Mrs. Alsop. Eight "Friends" enrolled. Eleven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

N. HACKNEY.—We held a very pleasant and successful garden party, on July 9th. Mrs. Cook, St. Mary's Lodge, Lordship Road, kindly lent us her garden. It was a glorious, sunny afternoon, and about two hundred guests favoured us with their presence. The Rev. F. E. Birch, Vicar and Rural Dean of Shoreditch, was Chairman, and explained his reasons for wishing to help the women's cause. Miss Muriel Matters made a most delightful and eloquent speech which made a fine impression on all who heard it. Miss Maud Savory arranged a much-enjoyed musical programme. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*, new members gained, and several copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

July 18th.—An open-air meeting was held at the corner of Amhurst Park and Stamford Hill. Mrs. Paul Campbell was the speaker. Several questions were asked, and the resolution carried with only two dissentients. Mrs. Campbell spoke for about two hours, and the people did not seem anxious to disperse even when the meeting was declared closed. Several "Friends" were gained (among them the man who had done most heckling), and twenty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

HOLBORN.—An open-air meeting was held on July 22nd at the junction of Denmark Street and Charing Cross Road. Speakers, Miss Fawcett and Miss Cockle. One new member joined; twelve "Friends" were enrolled, and eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

EAST ISLINGTON.—The second of the series in East Islington was held on July 16th. As the "pitch" had been annexed, we moved to Rock Street, and a very good meeting was held, the largest we have had yet. Ten "Friends" were enrolled and a good deal of literature distributed. Speakers, Mrs. Paul Campbell and Mr. C. H. Few. The questions were many, and replied to satisfactorily.

The third open-air meeting was held on July 23rd at the corner of Riversdale and Blackstock Roads. Chair, Mr. C. H. Few. Speakers, Miss Ruth Young and Mr. A. W. Watts. Cards were signed, and the audience was large and interested. The following resolution was put to the meeting: "That this meeting demands the vote for women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men." Several questions were put and answered.

The series of meetings in East Islington terminated well on July 30th. The following resolution was carried: "That this meeting, considering the enfranchisement of women to be for the welfare of the nation, calls on the Governmnt to introduce a measure of Women's Suffrage." Chairman, Mr. Few. Speaker, Miss McGrigor. Large audience and many sensible questions asked. In September it is hoped to have meetings in South Islington, weather permitting

ROTHERHITHE.—A very successful garden meeting was held at All Saints' Vicarage (by kind permission of Rev. H. Humphries) on July 23rd. Archdeacon Escreet presided, and Miss Hay-Cooper spoke on the religious aspect. Three new members joined. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and much other literature were sold.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAS.—An open-air meeting was held on July 15th at the corner of Acton Street and Gray's Inn Road. Speakers, Mrs. Rackham and Miss Hamilton. Miss Rinder in the chair. Thirty-nine "Friends" were enrolled, and twenty-three copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

An open-air meeting was held on July 20th at the corner of Castle Road and Kentish Town Road. Twenty-four "Friends" were enrolled, one member joined, and fifteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Speakers, Miss Gloyn and Miss Rinder.

WEST ST. PANCRAS.—A meeting of the Railway-women's Guild, Chalk Farm Branch, was held on July 20th, at 8.30 p.m., in the West St. Pancras Liberal Club. Speaker, Mrs. Ford Smith. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried *nem. con.* Twelve "Friends" were enrolled, and twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

SOUTHALL.—A meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was held in the Co-operative Hall, Southall, July 3rd. Mr. John Osborn gave an excellent address. Many questions were asked, and a good discussion followed. Mrs. Nuttall spoke about the value of the work done by the N.U.W.S.S. One man was very anxious to know why

the London Society had not organised the women in Southall. It was then explained by Mrs. Nutall that the London Society would probably start a Branch in Southall (seven persons gave in their names as being anxious to help). It was reported that two real converts had been made. Two resolutions were put to the meeting, and each was carried unanimously. Adult Suffrage seemed to be the most popular measure. All the copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold (twelve), thirty-two "Friends" enrolled, and leaflets were taken away by the people.

STREATHAM.—A members' meeting was held by kind invitation of Miss Warren at 56, Palace Road, on July 15th, at 8 p.m. Though there was only a small gathering, it was quite successful. The chair was taken by Miss Deverell, and Mrs. Harford Worlock read the annual report, and spoke on the work done in Streatham during the past year. This was followed by the election of the Committee, and at the close of the meeting most of the members present promised to do active work.

BOW AND BROMLEY.—A very successful meeting was held on July 25th in the grounds of Harley College, Bow (by kind permission of the Rev. W. Wilkes). The Rev. H. J. Kitcat (Rector of Bow) presided, and Miss M. Sheepshanks was the other speaker. A delightful entertainment was provided by members of the Bow Evening Home. During the meeting fifty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and thirty badges; fifty-three "Friends" were enrolled.

EALING.—A most successful and festive garden party was given on July 29th at "Ingleside," Edgehill Road, by the kind invitation of Mrs. McBride and her father, Mr. Hulbert, to all the members and "Friends" of the Ealing Branch of the L.S.W.S. They were invited to bring their friends, and over two hundred guests were there. The meeting resulted in sixty-nine new adherents (twenty-eight members, forty-one "Friends"). Forty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and much literature were sold. These excellent results were due to the able and inspiring speeches of the chairman, Professor de Sumichrast, and the speakers, Mrs. Corbett Fisher and Miss Chick. Mrs. Corbett Fisher laid stress on the fact that the womanly woman, in easy circumstances, was rusting from want of work, and that she must be given a responsible share in the world's work to renew these womanly qualities. It was not so much a question of what the women would do with the vote, but of what the vote would do to the women. A resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting of Ealing residents urges the Government to introduce a measure for the enfranchisement of women with as little delay as possible."

N. LAMBETH.—On July 28th, at the corner of Sancroft Street, Miss Fawcett and Miss Young addressed a large meeting, when thirty-three "Friends" were enrolled and twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

WALWORTH.—On July 21st, at the corner of Liverpool Street and Walworth Road, Miss Ruth Young and Miss M. M. Green addressed an immense crowd, the result of which was the enrolment of forty "Friends" and the sale of fourteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE.

W. SOUTHWARK.—On July 24th, at St. George's Circus, Mr. and Mrs. Worlock addressed an open-air meeting, when thirty-seven "Friends" were enrolled.

Central Counties Federation.

BIRMINGHAM.—July has been an unsettled month, but we were relieved in Birmingham when the Labour Party, very wisely as we think, decided not to oppose Mr. Austen Chamberlain in his father's constituency so soon after the latter's death. In connection with the passing of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain it is interesting to note that for nine years he was a member of our Society.

A delightful meeting (in spite of a thunderstorm) was held at the kind invitation of Mrs. Julian Osler at her house on July 1st, to introduce Mrs. Kempthorne, our Federation President, to the Committee and some of the members of our Society.

Suffrage addresses have been given during the month at two Trades Unions, two Men's Adult Schools, one Women's Co-operative Guild; and a good open-air meeting was held at King's Norton, with Mr. Bayes in the chair, and Mrs. Ring and Mrs. Streeter as speakers.

A good deal of house to house visiting has been done by members of the Active Service League, under Mrs. Jesper and Miss Kirby.

New members gained under the Lightning Campaign scheme are 205.

RUGBY.—On Friday, July 24th, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Mertens, a very pleasant informal meeting for members and friends was held at Bilton Rise, Rugby. The inclement weather kept away a good many people, but a goodly number attended in spite of the showers, and took part in golf-putting and cake guessing competitions. A tent with string band and light refreshments were provided, and the beautiful garden was much admired. During the evening speeches were made by Mr. Mertens, Miss Size, and Miss Fenwick. Mrs. Steel, our President, also spoke. A resolution strongly supporting the Bishop of London's Bill was passed unanimously. Twenty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, besides other literature, and eleven new "Friends" signed cards. Rugby now numbers 145 members and about the same number of "Friends."

We are holding a Sweated Industries' Exhibition here on October 27th, which we hope will be well patronised. The Secretary draws attention to the fact that the office has been removed from Regent Street to 17, Bank Street.

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR.—A pleasant little gathering of members and "Friends" took place on July 10th, in the pretty orchard of Wistaria House, by kind invitation of Miss Ryder and Miss Legge. Interesting and stimulating papers were read by Miss Harwood, who kindly came over from Campden, and Miss Violet Causton. A few words in conclusion were said by the Rev. W. A. Edwards, the Society's latest recruit.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—Mrs. Streeter came to Leamington from July 1st to 3rd. On the afternoon of the 2nd, she addressed the usual meeting of the Franchise Club at our office, 35, Warwick Street, Leamington. There was a good muster of "Friends," and we were all glad to listen to Mrs. Streeter's words of encouragement in her address on our "Path of Progress." Resolutions were passed unanimously—one calling on the Government to introduce a measure for Women's Suffrage, and one in support of the Bishop of London's Bill. The Rev. C. W. Weston presided. In the evening a very successful meeting was held in the schoolroom at Harbury (Rugby Division). There was an excellent attendance, and we found that the general interest roused in this, the first Suffrage meeting held in the village, was of quite the right sort of order. The Rev. C. W. Weston presided, and a resolution calling for a Government measure was passed *nem. con.* Mrs. Streeter spoke at considerable length on the many aspects of the Women's Movement. She gained the interest of her audience at once and held their sympathetic attention throughout the whole of her address. A vote of thanks to the chairman and speaker was proposed by Miss Blanche Leppington and seconded by Dr. Pirie. Several "Friends'" cards were signed at the close of the meeting. We heartily congratulate the Misses Dunn, who did excellent work canvassing, and the people of Harbury on the success of their first meeting.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY FIRST POST before the announcement is to be inserted, addressed to the Sub-Editor.

AUGUST 7.

Bollington—Open-air Meeting — Manchester A.S.L.—Mrs. Chew 7.30

AUGUST 8.

Eccles—Snodland.

Aylesford—Evening Meeting—The Misses M. and W. Hamilton, Miss Griffith Jones, and others

Maidstone—Fairmeadow.

Mottram — Open-air Meeting — Manchester A.S.L.—Mrs. Muter Wilson 7.0

Prestbury — Open-air Meeting — Manchester A.S.L. 4.0

AUGUST 9.

Hyde Park—Near Reformers' Tree—Speakers, Miss Ashton, Miss Fielden, Mrs. Ransom 3.30

AUGUST 10.

Cranbrook—Goudhurst—Evening Meeting

Langley—Open-air Meeting—Manchester A.S.L. —Councillor Margaret Ashton 7.30

Manchester—Corner of York Street, Chester Road, Hulme—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Ogden and Mr. G. G. Armstrong

Salford—Near Gasworks, Egerton Street—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Muter Wilson and Mr. J. Cook 8.0

Walworth—Small Hall, Manor Place Baths—I.L.P. Meeting—Mrs. Stanbury on "How the Vote will Help the Industrial Women" 9.0

AUGUST 11.

Tenterden—Rolvenden—Evening Meeting

AUGUST 12.

Dymchurch—New Romney—Evening Meeting

AUGUST 13.

Lydd—Littlestone—Evening Meeting

AUGUST 14.

Hawkhurst—Sandhurst—Meeting

Norwich—Miss Constance E. Smith At Home to "Friends"—Speaker, Mrs. Hazard—Chair, Miss E. L. Willis 3.0

THE LADY OF THE FLOWERS.

All uphill is the road at times,
All gray the leaden sky;
And hearts are sick with this world's wrong,
And hope seems like to die.

The Lady of the Flowers, then,
Comes in with words of cheer;
"The bells of God still ring," she cries,
"Open the door, and hear!"

And when the fight is at its worst
'Gainst cruelty and sin,
She smilingly brings roses red
In token that we win.

But does one fail to do the best?
Or does one miss the goal?
Her lilies white reconsecrate
The altar of the soul.

So, when the road is all uphill,
And leaden skies are gray,
The Lady of the Flowers appears
To crown the darkest day.

Her hands are always filled with gifts,
Her voice—of victory tells,
And in her heart for ever rings
The music of God's bells.

—CAROL RING.

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